Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY

STORY BY
RYUKISHI07

ART BY
HINASE MOMOYAMA

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
MASSACRE ARC

Higurashi WHEN THEY CRY MASSACRE ARC 2

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HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THE SAYING, "POKE AT THE BUSH AND YOU'LL SCARE OUT A SNAKE"?

IN OTHER WORDS, "LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE."

...IS OOISHI-SAN...

...WARNING ME...

...TO STOP APPEALING TO THE CHILD CONSUL-TATION CENTER?

WHY ...!?

CHAPTER 10: SAVING HANDS

THEY WOULDN'T LIKE IT IF EVERYONE THOUGHT A LITTLE APPEAL COULD CHANGE THEIR MINDS.

...GOV-ERNMENT OFFICES PUT A LOT OF STOCK IN REPU-TATION.

...MAE-BARA-SAN...

SO YOU WON'T GET THEM TO ALTER THEIR POLICIES WITHOUT SOMETHING DRAMATIC.

AT THIS POINT, ALL THE CHILD CONSULTATION CENTER REALLY WANTS IS FOR YOU TO STOP APPEALING TO THEM.

BUT ...!!

AND AS FAR AS SATOKO-SAN IS CONCERNED ...

...HER CASE ISN'T PARTICU-LARLY RE-MARKABLE TO THEM.

YOU KNOW THAT HE ABUSED HER A YEAR AGO!

BUT THAT RIGHT DOESN'T APPLY TO SATOKO'S UNCLE!

IT'S HIS RIGHT, AS ESTABLISHED BY CIVIL LAW, TO TAKE HER BACK HOME WITH HIM.

TEPPEI-SAN IS THE ONLY PERSON IN HER LIFE WITH ANY PARENTAL AUTHORITY.

AND MORE IMPOR-TANTLY, SATOKO-SAN DENIES THAT THERE'S ANY ABUSE.

HE HUNG HIS HEAD AND SAID HE WAS SORRY FOR WHAT HE'D DONE. THE CENTER CAN'T REBUKE HIM FOR THAT.

THAT WAS A YEAR AGO.

.....!

BUT THAT...

...THAT DOESN'T MEAN SHE'S NOT BEING ABUSED!

TEPPEI IS A VIOLENT THUG!

LEAVING SATOKO WITH HIM IS THE WORST THING WE COULD DO!!

EH?

...AND WHY IS THAT?

I DOUBT YOU KNOW MUCH ABOUT TEPPEI-SAN.

YOU WEREN'T IN HINAMIZAWA LAST YEAR.

—!!

SO WHY IS IT THAT YOU SEE HIM AS SUCH A TERRIBLE THREAT?

I HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN HIS FACE.

EVERY-THING I KNOW ABOUT SATOKO'S UNCLE I'VE HEARD SECOND-HAND.

... HE'S RIGHT.

...SOME-HOW I KNOW.

BUT...

ALL WE COULD DO WAS CRY TEARS OF REGRET.

HER HEART WAS DAMAGED BEYOND REPAIR.

...I SAT BY HELPLESSLY WHILE SATOKO WAS IN TROUBLE.

FAR... FAR AWAY ... IN A DIFFERENT WORLD

I'VE SEEN THAT WORLD.

I KNOW THAT WORLD!

SFX: TSUKA (SCUFF) TSUKA

BUT ...

...OOI-SHI-SAN...

...WOULD NEVER BELIEVE ME.

WAS THAT A DIFFICULT QUESTION?

FUU (FWOO) ,3,

I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE— THE CONSULTATION CENTER IS WONDERING THE SAME THING.

HOWEVER ...

...THERE WAS ONE THING THAT TROUBLED THE CENTER...

...ONE THING THAT MADE THEM WONDER IF THEY COULD REALLY AFFORD TO REFUSE YOU.

?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU SEE, BECAUSE YOU'RE SO ORGANIZED, THE CENTER ...

...WHA ...!?

...STARTED READING DEEPER INTO THIS APPEAL. THEY BEGAN TO SUSPECT THE SONOZAKIS WERE BEHIND IT.

I'M SURE YOU'RE WELL AWARE, MAEBARA-SAN, OF JUST HOW MUCH INFLUENCE...

...THE SONOZAKIS HAVE IN HINAMIZAWA.

YES. THAT'S WHAT THEY WANTED TO KNOW.

I'M ACTING AS REPRE-SENTA-TIVE, AND MION'S KEEPING HER LAST NAME SECRET! THAT SHOULD PROVE IT!

THIS IS OUR FIGHT!

THE SONO-ZAKIS HAVE NOTH-ING TO DO WITH THIS!

IF THIS HAD BEEN HER BIDDING, THEY WOULD HAVE MADE A SPECIAL CASE OF IT AND DEALT WITH IT IMMEDIATELY.

THE HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY, ORYOU-SAN, IS ESPECIALLY FAMOUS FOR THE POWERFUL INFLUENCE SHE'S HAD ON THE GOVERNMENT.

...AND CONFIRMED THAT SHE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY OF THIS BUSINESS.

BUT AN OFFICER MET WITH ORYOU-SAN DIRECTLY ...

THIS IS WHERE WE RUN INTO ANOTHER PROBLEM.

EH ?

YES.

AND THAT ISN'T ALL.

...AND THAT'S WHY THEY WON'T DEAL WITH IT QUICKLY?

NOW ORYOU-SAN HAS HEARD ABOUT ALL THE HULLABALOO.

...THE SONOZAKI FAMILY HAS GIVEN STRICT ORDERS THAT NO ONE IS TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE HOJO FAMILY— THE CRIMINALS OF THE DAM WAR.

EVER SINCE OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE STRUCK THE VILLAGE...

...SO YOU'RE SAYING ...

...THE SONO-ZAKIS ...

...WILL TURN THE WHOLE VILLAGE AGAINST US?

...MAEBARA-SAN...

EXACTLY.

IF YOU GO TOO FAR...

...YOU MAY ROUSE THE SLEEPING DOGS.

...YOU MOVED TO HINAMI-ZAWA ...

...MADE FRIENDS WITH THE PEOPLE HERE...AND YOU'RE DOING YOUR BEST TO BUILD YOUR NEW LIFE.

DO YOU WANT ...

...TO LOSE ALL OF THAT?

I LOVE HINAMI-ZAWA.

I ONLY JUST MADE UP MY MIND THAT I WAS GOING TO USE THIS MOVE TO START A NEW LIFE.

NAAH! わお!

AND I'M REALLY GRATE-FUL THAT THEY CHOSE ME TO BE THE AUC-TIONEER AT THE FESTIVAL.

I WANT TO DO EVERY-THING I CAN...

...TO LIVE UP TO EVERY-ONE'S EXPECTA-TIONS.

I'VE GOTTEN OFF TO SUCH A GOOD START.

IS IT REALLY IN MY BEST INTEREST TO MAKE ENEMIES HERE?

...AM I WRONG...

...TO TRY TO SAVE SATOKO ...!?

ARE MY IMMATURE, NARROW-MINDED IDEAS...

...STIRRING UP TROUBLE...

...IN HINAMIZAWA'S LOCAL SOCIETY?

AM I DISRUPTING THE VILLAGE ORDER AND TURNING THE SONOZAKIS AGAINST ME?

ALL I WANT TO DO...

...IS TAKE BACK THE FUN TIMES WE HAD BEFORE ...

OH-HO-HO-HO! YOU'RE PITIFUL!

KEIICHI-SAN!

WHAT...

...WAS I JUST THINKING?

WHAT WAS I AFRAID OF?

I WON'T GIVE UP.

BUT I *WILL GO* TO THE CHILD CONSULTATION CENTER TOMORROW.

OOISHI-SAN.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THAT FASCINATING BIT OF INFORMATION.

...

THERE'S NO WAY I'M GONNA STOP TRYING !!

EVEN IF THE ENTIRE WORLD TRIES TO TELL ME THAT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SAVE SATOKO...

NN-
FU-FU.

PON
(PAT)

NIKO
(GRIN)

...BUT IF YOU'RE THAT DETERMINED, THEN I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO SAY.

I HAD MEANT TO GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE, AS A MAHJONG BUDDY WHO'S BEEN DEALT THE SAME TILES...

THAT'S THE SPIRIT.

OH.

I GET IT!

HA (GASP)

...AH.

OOISHI-SAN WASN'T TRYING TO INTIMIDATE ME.

HE WAS WARNING ME ABOUT THE TROU-BLE AHEAD...

...TO SPUR ME ON!

EH?

...
ACTUALLY, I'M IN A SIMILAR SITUATION MYSELF.

NN FU FU.

HE WAS M... MUR-DERED ...!?

...A FRIEND OF MINE WAS KILLED. HE WAS LIKE A BROTHER TO ME.

...FOUR YEARS AGO ...

THEY'RE ALWAYS ORDERING ME TO STOP, THREATENING TO TAKE AWAY MY PENSION.

...BUT I'M CONVINCED THERE WAS SOMEONE BEHIND IT, AND I'M STILL INVESTI-GATING PRIVATELY.

YES. THE CASE HAS BEEN CLOSED ...

EXACTLY.

NI (SMIRK)

...BUT.

A MAN HAS A LOT OF THINGS HE HAS TO BELIEVE IN...

...EVEN IF NO ONE ELSE WILL!

THAT'S RIGHT!

IT'S IMPORTANT TO TAKE ADVICE TO HEART.

BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU JUST CAN'T BACK DOWN ON!!

SU (SSK)

...TO BE A REAL MAN!

THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS ...

I JUST NEED TO PRESS FORWARD AND KEEP BELIEVING!!

I HAVE NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF!

THE NEXT DAY...

OKAY, PEOPLE, LISTEN UP!

MIIIN (BUZZZZ)

MIN

MIN

MIN

GARA (RATTLE)

EVERY-ONE, SATOKO-SAN IS HERE.

TA (TED)

SATOKO !?

WE'RE NOT BACKING DOWN! WE'RE GOING BACK TO THE CONSUL-TATION CENTER!

YEAH!

I'M SORRY TO HAVE TROUBLED ALL OF YOU.

MY FEVER WOULDN'T GO DOWN FOR THREE DAYS.

...EH?

YOUR UNCLE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU, DID HE?
THAT STUFF ABOUT A COLD WAS ALL A LIE, WASN'T IT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

SU (SSK)
IT'S TRUE.
I HAD A FEVER THAT WOULDN'T GO DOWN FOR THREE DAYS.

SATOKO ...?
WHY WOULD YOU LIE LIKE THAT...?

THAT'S NOT THE ONLY THING.

WHA—!?

...I THINK HER UNCLE MUST HAVE THREATENED HER TO KEEP UP THE ACT.

HE ONLY LET HER COME TO SCHOOL BECAUSE IF SHE'D STAYED HOME LONGER THAN THREE DAYS, THEY WOULD HAVE HAD TO INVESTIGATE MORE CAREFULLY.

SHE WON'T ASK FOR HELP BECAUSE OF HER PROMISE TO SATOSHI.

SHE BELIEVES THAT WHEN SHE GETS STRONG ENOUGH, SATOSHI WILL COME BACK.

SATOSHI ...

SATOKO THINKS THAT SHE WAS A BURDEN TO SATOSHI BECAUSE SHE WAS WEAK.

SHE'S TRYING TO BE STRONG, TRYING NOT TO ASK ANYONE FOR HELP.

BUT THAT'S NOT RIGHT!!

I WISH YOU WOULDN'T STICK YOUR NOSES WHERE THEY DON'T BELONG.

IS THAT WHY THE MAN FROM THE CENTER CAME TO OUR HOUSE?

SU (SSK)

BAN (BAM)

BUT...WE WEREN'T ENOUGH!

SA-TOKO ...

...WE'VE BEEN MAKING APPEALS TO THE CHILD CONSULTATION CENTER. WE WANT THEM TO HELP YOU.

WE CAN'T SAVE YOU UNLESS YOU ASK FOR HELP!

WE KNOW YOU'RE HURTING! STOP LYING!

STOP WORRYING ABOUT SATOSHI! YOU'RE ONLY MAKING IT WORSE FOR YOURSELF!

COME ON, SATOKO!

.....

...I'M FINE. REALLY...

PIKU (TWITCH)

RENA ...

YOU'RE LYING.

WE'RE REACHING OUT TO YOU.

WE ALL KNOW IT, AND THAT'S WHY WE'RE DOING OUR BEST TO HELP YOU.

YOU'RE NOWHERE NEAR FINE, SATOKO-CHAN.

I THOUGHT THAT WHAT I WAS DOING WAS THE BEST WAY.

SO I REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE HANDS MY FRIENDS REACHED OUT TO ME.

...I WAS LIKE YOU.

I THOUGHT, "NO ONE CAN HELP ME."

BUT THEN...

...SOMEONE... I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE, BUT HE SAID...

..."THE WORLD YOU REALLY WANTED IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.

"BUT IF WE DON'T REACH OUT TO EACH OTHER, WE'LL NEVER GET THERE"!

SO, SATOKO-CHAN...

...YOU NEED TO REACH OUT TOO!

WHO-EVER SAID THAT WAS RIGHT ON THE MONEY !!

THAT'S RIGHT!

RENA ...

LISTEN UP, SATOKO!!

YOU KNOW IT'S NOT!

IS THAT THE WORLD YOU WANT? A WORLD WHERE YOU HAVE TO PUT UP WITH ALL OF THIS?

YOU THINK THAT NOT ASKING FOR HELP IS A SIGN OF STRENGTH, BUT IT'S NOT!

REACH OUT YOUR HAND!!

PIKU (TWITCH)

THANK YOU...

...AH!

TAKE OUR HANDS !!!

WE'LL TAKE YOUR HAND ...

...AND PULL YOU BACK UP TO THE FUN WORLD WE HAD BEFORE!

ZA (SFX)

SATO-KO...

——!!

...I REALLY AM... FINE...

MIC

...BUT...

THANK YOU... VERY MUCH.

POR (DRIP)

HA (GASP)

GHN

WHY ARE YOU PUTTING UP WITH YOUR UNCLE'S ABUSE?

WHY...?

KH.

NGH

HIC

IF IT'S BAD ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU CRY, REACH OUT YOUR HAND!!

BUT...

...BUT STILL.

...MAYBE THE PROM-ISE YOU MADE TO SATOSHI...

...IS THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU.

NGH

KH

MIC

PORO DRIP

I DON'T GET IT, SATOKO !!!

PORO

PORO

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO LET THE ABUSE DO THIS TO YOU!?

SATO-KO...

SATO-KO-CHAN!

SHION!

SHE NEEDS A LITTLE MORE TIME.

GU (GRAB)

H-HOW CAN YOU SAY YOU'RE FINE !?

SATO-KO!

TIME ?

LIKE WE CAN JUST KICK BACK AND WAIT HOWEVER MANY DAYS IT TAKES!?

HIC

NGH

WE HAVE TO HELP HER NOW!

SATOKO'S HEART IS FALLING APART!!

DOTA

DOTA (STOMP)

DOTA

HOJO-KUN!

BA (BAM)

NN —!

...ARE THOSE THE PRINCIPAL'S FOOTSTEPS?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

WHAT THE...?

SATO ...

...KO...?

WHAT HAP-PENED?

BIKU (WINCE)

SU (SSK)

EVERY-ONE HERE IS YOUR FRIEND.

YOUR UNCLE ISN'T HERE.

HOJO-KUN?

KATA (SHIVER)

KATA

KATA

KATA

...
AH.

NGH...
AAAH
...

MY
...

...MY UNCLE
...

UNCLE
...

AAAHHH!!

WHAT IS SHE SO AFRAID OF!?

WHY...?

HEY ...

...WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG, SATOKO?

HER UNCLE ISN'T ANY-WHERE NEAR HERE!

THE MAN STANDING IN FRONT OF HER IS PRINCIPAL KAIEDA.

TA (TEP)

IT'S MY UN-CLE ...

GATA (SHIVER)

GATA

GATA

MY UNCLE ...!!

B-BUT...

...HE'S RIGHT THERE!

MY UNCLE'S RIGHT THERE! HE CAME TO TAKE ME BACK WITH HIM!

IT'S ALL RIGHT. YOUR UNCLE ISN'T HERE, SIR.

CALM DOWN, SATOKO, SIR...

HAVE YOU HAD YOUR SHOT TODAY!?

SHOT?

...WHAT IS SHE TALKING ABOUT?

...WHY...?

SATOKO NEEDS A SHOT?

NII-NII!

NII-NII!

WAAAAH!

MY UNCLE! ...IT'S MY UNCLE ...!

WAAAAH!

TELL HIM SATOKO NEEDS HELP! HE'LL UNDER-STAND!

KEIICHI! CALL IRIE! HURRY!

WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?

O...

OKAY.

SIGN: MEDICAL OFFICE

保健室

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON!?

ZAWA

ザワ

ZAWA

ザワ

SU-
(SHHK)

AH! MAE-BARA-KUN!

'SCUSE ME, SORRY!

LET'S ALL GO BACK TO CLASS SO WE DON'T DISTURB SATOKO-SAN.

SETTLE DOWN, EVERY-ONE.

PATAN
(SHUT)

IS SATOKO GOING TO BE OKAY?

MAE-BARA-SAN...

KEIICHI.

SHE'S SLEEPING SOUNDLY.

YES. SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT FOR NOW.

...WHAT IN THE WORLD WAS THAT?

BUT...

THAT'S A RELIEF..

WHEW.

COACH!

WHY DID SATOKO THINK THAT PRINCIPAL KAIEDA WAS HER UNCLE?

EVEN IF THE FOOT-STEPS DID SOUND THE SAME ...

...AS SOON AS SHE SAW THE PRINCIPAL, SHE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN HE WASN'T HER UNCLE.

BUT EVEN WHEN HE SPOKE TO HER, SHE STILL THOUGHT HE WAS HER UNCLE.

I KNOW HE'S ABUSING HER, BUT THAT'S TOO—

I'M SORRY, MAEBARA-SAN.

PETAN (CLOSE)

I'M VERY BUSY TODAY, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME.

IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, PLEASE CALL.

SU (SSK)

PATAN (SHUT)

EH?

THAT'S WEIRD.

WAS HE TRYING TO AVOID TALKING ABOUT SATOKO?

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

.....

...WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE TO YOU, KEIICHI, SIR?

IF THERE WERE A BLACK SPOT ON THE WALL...

A BLACK SPOT?

IF YOU HATED FLIES, YOU'D PROBABLY THINK IT WAS A FLY.

AND IF YOU HATED COCK-ROACHES, IT WOULD LOOK LIKE A COCK-ROACH, SIR.

IF YOU HATED SPIDERS, IT WOULD LOOK LIKE A SPIDER.

WHEN THERE'S SOMETHING AROUND THAT PEOPLE CAN'T IDENTIFY...

...THEY USUALLY GROW WARY OF IT AND MISTAKE IT FOR WHAT-EVER THEY HATE THE MOST.

...PRINCIPAL KAIEDA WAS RIGHT THERE IN FRONT OF HER—TALKING TO HER—AND SHE WAS STILL SCARED OUT OF HER MIND.

B... BUT ...

...SHE CAN'T REALIZE ...

...THAT HER MISTAKE IS A MISTAKE— THAT'S WHAT SATOKO'S ILLNESS DOES TO HER.

KO (CLACK)

.....
...KEIICHI.

SATOKO?

I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

WHAT DISEASE?

...ILL...

ILL-NESS?

CAN YOU PROMISE ME THAT YOU WON'T TELL ANYONE, SIR?

.....
...RIKA...
CHAN?

CAN YOU PROMISE ME THAT YOU WON'T TELL ANY-ONE, SIR?

CHIRA (GLANCE)

.....

...JUST A FEW MIN-UTES AGO...

...SATOKO HEARD PRINCIPAL KAIEDA'S FOOTSTEPS AND THOUGHT THEY WERE HER UNCLE'S.

SHE WENT BALLISTIC.

SHE STILL BE-LIEVED

...IT WAS HER UNCLE, EVEN WHEN THE PRINCIPAL APPEARED IN FRONT OF HER.

...AND THAT I CAN'T TELL ANY-ONE ABOUT IT.

RIKA-CHAN SAYS IT'S BECAUSE SHE HAS AN ILLNESS.

JUST WHAT KIND OF DISEASE IS TORMENTING SATOKO...?

YEAH, RIKA-CHAN. I PROMISE.

I WON'T TELL ANYONE.

.....
KEIICHI...

保健室

SIGN: MEDICAL OFFICE

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU OUTSIDE.

CHAPTER 11: THE THIRD APPEAL

...KEIICHI, SATOKO HAS BEEN SICK FOR A FEW YEARS NOW, SIR.

SHE'S BEEN HAVING TREATMENTS FOR A LONG TIME.

B-BUT SHE'S NEVER ONCE SHOWED ANY SIGN OF BEING SICK.

NOT ONCE SINCE THE DAY I TRANS-FERRED HERE.

SHE'S HAD THIS FOR A LONG TIME...?

!

I SEE...

...HO (WHEW)

...HER DISEASE ISN'T EASY TO CURE.

BUT IF SHE TAKES HER MEDICINE AND HAS HER TREATMENTS LIKE SHE SHOULD, SHE CAN HAVE A NORMAL LIFE, SIR.

...BUT...

...THEN WHY DID SHE...?

MY GUESS IS THAT HER UNCLE WAS BULLYING HER, SO SHE FORGOT TO TAKE HER SHOT THIS MORNING.

SATOKO NEEDS HER SHOTS TWICE A DAY, SIR.

SO MISSING JUST ONE SHOT WILL—

!

保健室

SIGN: MEDICAL OFFICE

IT'S A VERY SERIOUS DISEASE, SIR.

KOKUN (NOD)

NO...

VORU (STAGGER)

...MISSING JUST ONE SHOT WILL GET HER THAT SCARED...!?

IT DIDN'T MATTER WHAT THE PRINCIPAL SAID TO HER, SIR. SHE COULDN'T SEE ANYONE BUT HER UNCLE.

SATOKO FORGOT TO TAKE HER SHOT.

THEN SHE HEARD THE PRINCIPAL'S FOOTSTEPS AND THOUGHT IT WAS HER UNCLE.

HA (GASP)

I HAD NO IDEA SHE'S BEEN FIGHTING SUCH A TERRIBLE DISEASE ALL THIS TIME.

...I HAD NO IDEA.

...CAN'T WE JUST PUT HER IN A HOSPITAL !?

HOLD ON.

IF SHE'S SICK ...

...IRIE SUG-GESTED THAT.

...WE CAN STILL FORCE HER AWAY FROM HER UNCLE!!

THAT'S IT! EVEN IF SATOKO DOESN'T ASK FOR HELP...

BUT SATOKO REFUSED, SIR.

IF YOUR DOCTOR SAYS YOU NEED TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL, YOU CAN'T JUST SAY NO...

NO...

WHY ...?

保健室

?

SIGN: MEDICAL OFFICE

...KEI-ICHI...

...HER UNCLE WILL DESTROY HER NII-NII'S ROOM.

...IF SATOKO DOESN'T STAY AT HER HOUSE ...

...HUH?

SATOKO TOLD ME.

SHE HAS TO PROTECT THE HOJO HOME UNTIL SATOSHI COMES BACK, SIR.

BATAN (SLAM)

DON (BOOM)

GATA (CLATTER)

GATA

GASA

GASA (RUSTLE)

GASA

DAM-MIT!

THE BANK-BOOK'S NOT HERE EITHER!

I BET IT'S ON THE SECOND FLOOR.

WHERE DID HE HIDE IT?

.....

BA (BAM)

DOTA (STOMP)

DOTA

DOTA

DOTA

STOP !!!

STAY AWAY FROM NII-NII'S ROOM!!

AAH?

IF NII-NII GETS BACK AND HIS ROOM IS A MESS... NGH!

IT WILL MAKE HIM SAD!!

WHAT'S THAT?

!

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW IF SATOSHI'S STILL ALIVE!

NII-
NII IS
ALIVE!!

HE
WILL
COME
BACK!
I KNOW
IT!

BORO

SO
DON'T
MESS
UP HIS
ROOM
!!

BORO

BORO
(DRIP)

...
WHA
—!?

WAAAH!

WAAAH!

WAAAH!

...
TCH.

OKAY,
FINE.

IF YOU'RE
A GOOD
LITTLE GIRL,
SATOKO,
I WON'T
TOUCH HIS
ROOM.

BUT IF
YOU RUN
AWAY...

...OR
TELL
ANYONE
THAT I'M
BEING
MEAN TO
YOU...

AH...

GOSO
(RUMMAGE)

.....!

...I CAN'T BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENS TO THIS ROOM.

CAPICHE?

SHUBO (FWOOM)

...
WH
...

...WHAT
THE
HELL
...?

GUGU
(CLENCH)

THAT DIRTY BAS-TARD!!

USING SATOKO'S WEAK-NESS TO THREATEN HER LIKE THAT!!

GUU (CLENCH)

I'M SERI-OUSLY GONNA KILL HIM!!

BA (BAM)

KEIICHI! YOU HAVE TO KEEP YOUR TEMPER, SIR!

GASHI (CLAMP)

DO YOU WANT TO WASTE EVERY-THING WE'VE DONE?

HÀ (GASP)

...DÄM-MIT!

GYUU SQUEEZE

...RIKA-CHAN...

KEEP YOUR COOL, KEIICHI MAEBARA!

...YOU'LL BE THROW-ING AWAY ALL THE HELP EVERY-ONE'S GIVEN HER.

IF YOU LOSE IT NOW...

SO WHAT DO I DO!?

...BUT SHE...

...WILL NEVER ASK FOR HELP NOW.

...
KEIICHI.

SU (SSK)

?

...I AM POWERLESS. I CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO SAVE SATOKO.

BUT ...

UP UNTIL NOW, WE'VE FAILED TO SAVE SATOKO EVERY TIME.

...BUT YOU, KEIICHI!

I BELIEVE YOU CAN!

BUT THIS KEIICHI— THIS TIME YOU'RE USING METHODS I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

I THINK WE'RE JUST ONE STEP AWAY FROM SAVING HER, SIR.

...RIKA-CHAN?

...SOMETIMES, I DON'T GET WHAT RIKA-CHAN IS SAYING.

"WE'VE FAILED TO SAVE SATOKO EVERY TIME"?

"THIS KEIICHI"? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

BUT I GET THAT SHE BELIEVES IN ME!!

YEAH! LEAVE IT TO ME!

KOKUN (NOD)

TODAY IS DAY THREE!

WE ALREADY HAVE TEN TIMES MORE PEOPLE THAN WE DID THE FIRST TIME!

JUST BECAUSE SATOKO DOESN'T ASK US TO HELP HER...

...DOESN'T MEAN WE WON'T!

WE'LL SAVE SATOKO OUR WAY!!

NIKO (SMILE)

AND AFTER SCHOOL ...

MAEBARA-KUN!

AND TOMITAKE-SAN AND TAKANO-SAN!

COACH!

WE WANT TO DO EVERY-THING WE CAN TO HELP.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING!

EH ...?

HOW DID YOU EVER GET SO MANY PEOPLE?

SU (SSK)

TON (PAT)

BUT I AM IM-PRESSED, KEIICHI-KUN.

WAH!

PREPARATIONS COMPLETE FOR A FULL-SCALE ASSAULT!

WE WILL ATTAIN OUR OBJECTIVE AND RESCUE THE GIRL!

相談所は即時対応せよ!!

たた助

緊急保護実!

MAE-BARA-SAN!

TODAY IS THE DAY WE SAVE SATOKO HOJO-SAN!

北条郁子を救え!

WE WOULD NEVER ABANDON HOJO-SAN!

WE CAN'T LET HER STAY WITH THAT ROTTEN UNCLE!

SIGNS (R-L): SAVE SATOKO HOJO! / EMERGENCY CUSTODY! / CHILD CONSULTATION CENTER! WE DEMAND IMMEDIATE ACTION! / ACT NOW!! - SASHES: ACT IMMEDIATELY / EMERGENCY / SAVE SATOKO HOJO / TAKE HER INTO EMERGENCY CUSTODY! / SAVE HER IMMEDIATELY - BANNER: SAVE SATOKO HOJO

ALL THESE PEOPLE CAME TOGETHER TO HELP SATOKO!!

IT'S INCRED-IBLE.

SEEING THEM ALL TOGETHER, I CAN'T HELP BUT BE IMPRESSED.

IT'S OKAY. WITH ALL OF US TOGETHER, WE CAN DO THIS!

KEIICHI.

YEAH, LET'S GO!

KUSU (CHUCKLE)

KUSU

AND ALL THANKS TO MAEBARA-KUN, WHO WASN'T EVEN HERE THEN...

AMAZING! NO DOUBT ABOUT IT— IT'S LIKE THE DAM WAR ALL OVER AGAIN!

KASHA (CLICK)

KASHA

TODAY, WE WILL SAVE SATOKO!!

ZA (ZSH)

ZAWA

WHAT CAN WE HELP YOU WITH TODAY?

ZAWA

H... HELLO.

ZAWA (MURMUR)

THE SAME THING AS YESTERDAY!

WE'VE COME TO MAKE AN APPEAL ON BEHALF OF SATOKO HOJO! WE WANT YOU TO DEAL WITH HER SITUATION IMMEDIATELY!

UNFORTUNATELY, THERE IS A MEETING TODAY, SO WE CAN'T USE THE CONFERENCE ROOM.

GATA (CLATTER)

BUT THE DIRECTOR SAYS HE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY.

ZAWA (MURMUR)

I APOLOGIZE THAT WE HAVE TO USE SUCH A SMALL SPACE...

...BUT WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO SELECT THREE REPRESENTATIVES?

...WHA—!?

SU (SSK)

WAIT, SHION.

WHAT'S THE POINT IN BRINGING ALL THESE PEOPLE IF ONLY THREE GET TO TALK!!?

BASHES. SAVE SATOKO HOJO! / TAKE HER INTO EMERGENCY CUSTODY! / SAVE SATOKO HOJO!

...KEI-CHAN...?

北条沙都子

THE HEAD OF THE CHILD CONSULTATION CENTER HAS GRACIOUSLY AGREED TO SPEAK WITH US DIRECTLY.

WE SHOULD BE WILLING TO COMPROMISE TOO.

WE NEED TO LET THEM KNOW THAT WE WANT TO TALK THIS OUT.

SHII. KEIICHI IS RIGHT, SIR.

RIKA-CHAMA ...

...BUT —!

...FINE.

BUT THEN YOU'D BETTER LET THEM KNOW EXACTLY WHAT'S WHAT, KEI-CHAN!

FOR OUR SECOND REP-RESENTATIVE... WE NEED AN ADULT. CAN I COUNT ON YOU, COACH?

OF COURSE.

AND THIRD...

SHION...

I WILL!

AS SATOKO'S BEST FRIEND...

...RIKA-CHAN. WILL YOU JOIN US?

...MEW?

ザワ
ZAWA
(MURMUR)

ザワ ZAWA...

...I DON'T BE-LIEVE IT.

IT MAY BE TRUE THAT I GET ALONG WITH SATOKO BETTER THAN ANYONE...

I NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT I WOULD BE CHOSEN AS A REPRE-SENTATIVE.

...BUT... SHOULDN'T THEY HAVE CHOSEN SOMEONE WHO'S A BETTER SPEAKER?

ALL I CAN DO...

...IS SIT HERE AND WATCH.

...ALL I CAN DO..

...RIKA.

SU (SHHP)

HOW IS IT GOING, SIR?

HANYU...

COME TO THINK OF IT, I HAVEN'T SEEN HER IN A FEW DAYS.

I THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE SHE HAD GIVEN UP ON THIS WORLD.

BUT MAYBE SHE'S CONCERNED ABOUT SATOKO AFTER ALL?

WELL...

...KEIICHI HAS BEEN GOING AT IT WITH THE CENTER FOR A WHILE. THE BIGGEST POINT OF ARGUMENT ...

...IS WHETHER OR NOT SATOKO ACKNOWLEDGES THAT SHE'S BEING ABUSED.

BUT KEIICHI AND IRIE INSIST THAT SATOKO'S UNCLE IS THREATENING HER SO SHE CAN'T ASK FOR HELP.

THE CHILD CONSULTATION CENTER CAN'T HELP SATOKO UNTIL SHE ADMITS THAT THERE'S A PROBLEM.

AND THE DISCUSSION REMAINS EVER AT A STALEMATE.

RENA AND KEIICHI TRIED THAT EARLIER TODAY.

.....

...CAN'T ANY-ONE CONVINCE SATOKO TO REACH OUT HERSELF?

I DON'T THINK...

...ANY-ONE CAN CONVINCE HER.

BUT...

...IT WAS NO USE.

RIKA...

...THERE WILL BE ANOTHER WORLD, MORE FORTUNATE THAN THIS ONE, SIR.

YOU CAN WAIT WITH ME UNTIL IT COMES.

SO PLEASE, STOP GETTING YOUR HOPES UP AND GETTING YOURSELF HURT.

...OH.

...HANYU IS WORRIED THAT I'LL BE DISAPPOINTED AGAIN.

IF I KEEP GETTING HURT EVERY TIME MY HOPES ARE BETRAYED ...

...SOONER OR LATER, MY HEART WILL DIE TOO.

I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO REPEAT THIS WORLD AGAIN

...THAT WILL MEAN THE TOTAL DEATH OF RIKA.

WHEN THE HEART DIES ...

...HANYU WILL BE FORCED TO LIVE ALONE IN THE WORLD AGAIN.

IF SHE LOSES ME, THE ONE PERSON SHE CAN COMMUNI-CATE WITH ...

THAT IS WHAT HANYU FEARS MOST.

SATOKO WON'T REACH OUT...

..SO IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY APPEALS THEY MAKE. IT WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING.

YOU CAN KEEP TRYING IN THIS WORLD, BELIEVING A MIRACLE WILL HAPPEN ...

BUT IT WON'T. IT WILL ALL BE A WASTED EFFORT.

.....

MAYBE IT REALLY WOULD BE BETTER TO PIN MY HOPES ON THE NEXT WORLD.

...RIGHT, RIKA-CHAN?

HA- (GASP)

EH?

OOPS, I WASN'T LISTEN-ING.

WE WON'T GIVE UP UNTIL SATOKO IS SAFE! RIGHT?

RIGHT... SIR.

AH...

KEIICHI AND IRIE...

...HAVE NOT GIVEN UP.

PLEASE ...

WE WILL DO ANY-THING AND EVERY-THING IN OUR POWER.

NO.

THEY'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES.

HA (GASP)

はっ

SASH: SAVE SATOKO HOJO! / PUT HER IN EMERGENCY CUSTODY

...NOT ONE OF THE ANGEL MORT CUSTOM-ERS...

...OR STAFF.

...NOT ONE OF KAMEDA'S TEAM...

NOT ONE OF HER CLASS-MATES...

THEY ALL BELIEVE WITHOUT A DOUBT...

...THAT THEY CAN SAVE SATOKO.

...AH.

NOT ONE OF THEM ...!?

THEN ...

...WHAT ABOUT ME?

HAVE I KEPT TRYING WITHOUT GIVING UP?

DO I BELIEVE LIKE THEY DO?

NO.

AS SOON AS HANYU TOLD ME THAT NOTHING I DO WILL MAKE A DIFFER-ENCE, I GAVE UP.

ALL I'VE DONE IS SIT BACK AND CHEER EVERY-ONE ON. I HAVEN'T HAD FAITH IN ANY MIRACLE.

I GAVE UP—I, SATOKO'S BEST FRIEND. THE ONE WITH THE KEY...

...TO UNLOCKING HER HEART.

I'M SO ASHAMED.

I HATE MYSELF.

HOW COULD I BE SO PATHETIC?

POTA (DRIP)

IF WE COMBINE OUR EFFORTS ...

...THEN THERE'S NO MIRACLE WE CAN'T MAKE HAPPEN!

...THAT'S RIGHT.

THAT'S WHAT RENA WAS SAYING!

IF EVEN ONE OF US HOLDS BACK, THE MIRACLE WON'T HAPPEN...

HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY SAVE SATOKO IF I DON'T BELIEVE IN MIRACLES !!!?

YES?

...HEY, HANYU.

RIKA, DON'T BE SAD, SIR. WE'LL GO TO THE NEXT WORLD.

G'O (SHOCK)

...ON THIS WORLD !!!

IF IT DOESN'T WORK IN THIS WORLD ...

!!!?

I WILL STAKE EVERY-THING...

...THEN I WILL NEVER RELIVE THIS TIME AGAIN.

...UHH.

UHH! UHH! UHH! おうおうおう

YOU CAN'T, SIR!

WE CAN'T RELIVE THIS WORLD UNLESS YOU AND I BOTH WISH IT, SIR!

I DON'T WANT TO GO TO A WORLD WITHOUT YOU! I DON'T WANT TO GO TO A WORLD WHERE I'M ALL ALONE!

WE PROMISED EACH OTHER WE WOULD STAY TOGETHER UNTIL WE BEAT OUR DESTINY!!

I'M SORRY.

I CAN'T KEEP THAT PROMISE.

I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT.

EVEN IF I COULD DO IT ALL OVER IN A WORLD WITH SIMILAR GOOD FORTUNE, IF I STILL END UP MURDERED...

...THEN WHAT'S THE POINT IN THAT WORLD EVEN EXISTING!?

MY MIND IS MADE UP.

B...

...BUT, RIKA!

SO I WANT YOU TO BELIEVE TOO.

...WILL SEE THE ENTIRE SUMMER OF 1983!!

I DON'T WANT A NEXT WORLD.

I WILL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO SURVIVE THIS WORLD.

AND THEN ...

...ALL OF MY FRIENDS AND I...

SUU SHH

UHH, UHH.

UHH ...

UUUUH...

DON'T BE SAD.

HA-NYU.

...THAT I'VE MADE UP MY MIND TO DIE.

IT'S NOT ...

BUT WHEN THINGS DIDN'T WORK FOR ME, I'D JUST PIN MY HOPES ON THE NEXT WORLD.

HUMANS ONLY GET ONE LIFE TO LIVE. THEY DON'T GET TO DO IT OVER.

SO NOW THAT I'VE REAL-IZED THAT FACT...

YOU CAN'T MAKE MIRACLES HAPPEN THAT WAY.

THEY DEVOTE THEIR WHOLE BODY AND SOUL TO MAKING MIRA-CLES HAPPEN.

...I HAVE TO DO WHAT I CAN IN THIS WORLD.

PLEASE UNDER-STAND!

GATA (CLATTER)

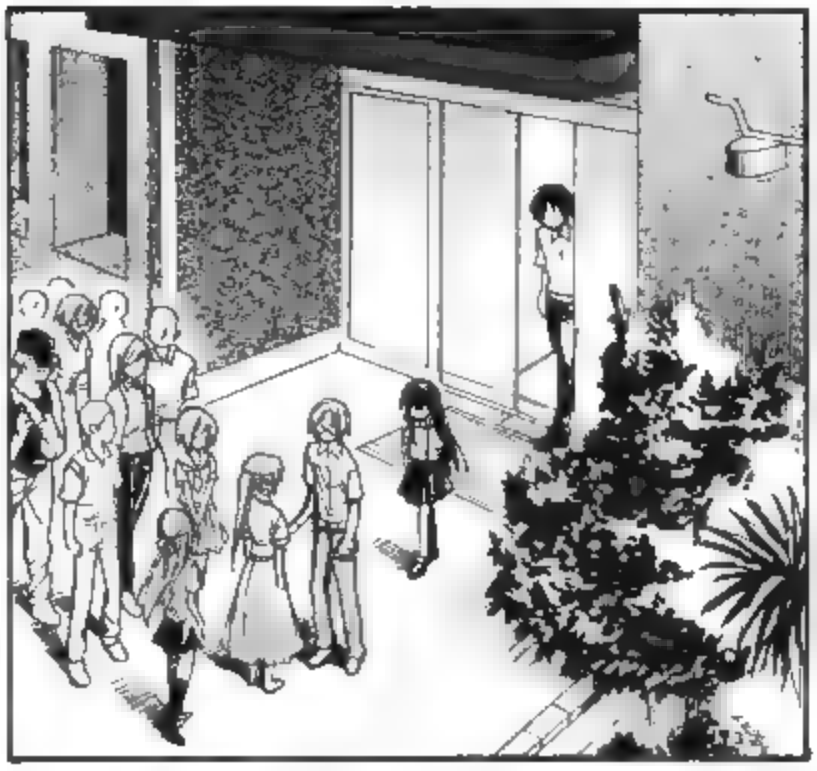
.....?

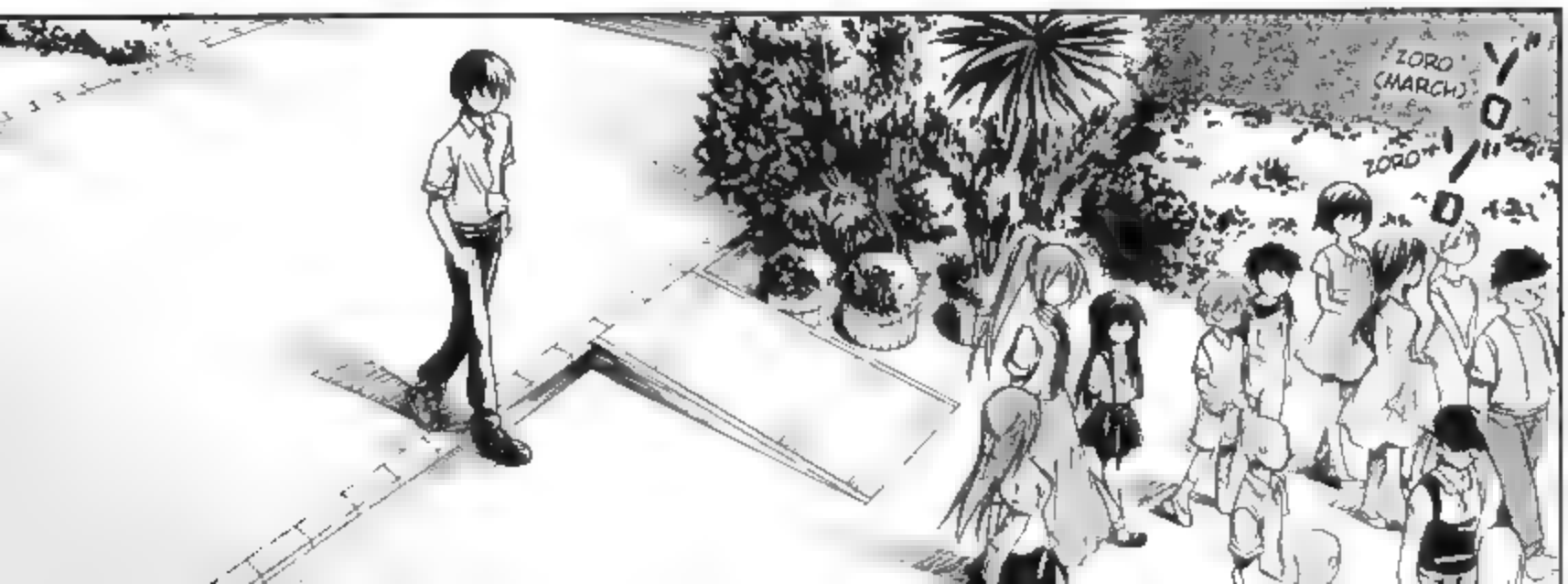
RIKA-CHAN...?

Y...
YES...
YOU JUST NEED SATOKO TO ASK FOR HELP, RIGHT?
THEN...
...ALL RIGHT.

...I WILL GO TALK TO SATOKO...

...AND GET HER TO ASK FOR HELP, SIR!




ZORO
(MARCH)
ZORO
ZORO

IF YOU CAN COME TOMOR-ROW, MEET HERE AT THE SAME TIME!

THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY!

I PROMISED I'D LET THEM KNOW EXACTLY WHAT'S WHAT.

GUYS...

SHION.

I'M REALLY SORRY.

...STOOD UP AND MADE HER OPINION VERY CLEAR.

EVEN RIKA-CHAN, WHO'S USUALLY JUST STAR-ING INTO SPACE ...

SIGN (R): SAVE SATOKO HOJO!

...I WAS SURE WE'D SAVE SATOKO THIS TIME.

WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE COMING TOGETH-ER...

SIGN (L): TAKE HER INTO EMERGENCY CUSTODY!

...THE CHILD CONSUL-TATION CENTER IS STILL TAKING A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE.

AND YET...

...WE COULDN'T CHANGE A SINGLE THING!!

AFTER ALL THAT...

THIS TIME, THE DIRECTOR—THE HEAD OF THE WHOLE CHILD CONSULTATION CENTER—CAME TO SEE US.

KEI-CHAN, IT'S NOT LIKE THEY WERE COMPLETELY UNRESPONSIVE.

SU (SSK)

AND WE ALL KNOW HOW HARD YOU'RE TRYING.

YOU DON'T NEED TO BEAR ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY YOURSELF.

WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS.

MION...

SHE'S RIGHT. WE DID HAVE SOME EFFECT ON THEM.

THANKS, MION.

YEAH.

WANNA ALL GO TOGETH-ER?

BUT ...

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE GET GOING.

THERE'S ANOTHER MEETING TONIGHT.

CHIRA (GLANCE)

WHAT IS THIS FEEL-ING?

CHAPTER 12: OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE

I FEEL LIKE SOME-THING'S REALLY OFF.

LIKE THIS WHOLE APPEAL IS A BIG SUMO MATCH I'M FIGHTING ALL BY MYSELF.

...COACH IRIE JOINED UP WITH OUR CLUB, AND WE ALL HEADED TO THE ASSEMBLY HALL TOGETHER.

AND SO...

...SINCE WE ALL HAD A COTTON DRIFTING COMMITTEE MEETING...

DAD'S ALREADY HERE?

ZAWA

ZAWA (MURMUR)

KARARA (RATTLE)

WHAT'S THIS, MION-CHAN ...?

YOU'VE GOT QUITE THE CROWD WITH YOU.

VILLAGE CHIEF KIMIYOSHI.

WE HOPE YOU'LL COME TO THE COTTON DRIFTING THIS YEAR.

YES, I WOULD LOVE TO.

HELLO, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

OH, YOU'RE HERE TOO, SHION-CHAN!

WOULD YOU COME WITH ME?

IS THIS ABOUT THE REFRESHMENT STANDS?

...A FESTIVAL, HUH?

...OH, YES...

...MION-CHAN...

...I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU.

YEAH, A FESTIVAL.

WE NEED TO USE EVERY MINUTE WE CAN GET TO TRY AND SAVE SATOKO.

THIS IS REALLY NO TIME TO BE PLANNING A FESTIVAL.

ZAWA

ZAWA (MURMUR)

ざわ...

PON (PAT)

KEI-CHAN, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.

HA (GASP)

!

KARARA (RATTLE)

KUI (FWIP)

MION?

PRIN-
CIPAL
KAIEDA
AND
CHIE-
SENSEI!

.....?

WHAT'S
WRONG?
WHY DO
YOU LOOK
SO...?

.....

THERE'S SOMETHING WE NEED TO TELL YOU, MAEBARA-KUN.

DO YOU THINK TOMORROW'S APPEAL COULD BE THE LAST ONE...

...AND THEN WE'LL JUST WAIT AND SEE FOR A WHILE?

S... SENSEI ...?

I THINK YOU'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING, MAEBARA-KUN.

BUT ...

EH?

!?

...I...

...CAN'T HELP YOU ANYMORE.

WHA ...?

WHY WOULD SENSEI SAY THAT?

CHIE-SENSEI IS SUP-POSED TO UNDER-STAND US.

SHE EVEN LED THE WHOLE CLASS TO THE CONSULTATION CENTER YESTERDAY!

SO WHAT...

...THE HELL HAP-PENED?

AFTER ALL THAT, THERE'S NO WAY SHE WOULD TRY AND STOP US.

IT'S THANKS TO CHIE-SENSEI THAT THE HINAMIZAWA BRANCH SCHOOL EVEN EXISTS.

EH?

I THINK YOU NEED TO KNOW, KEI-CHAN.

WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING?

MION?

A FEW YEARS AGO ...

...THE SCHOOL WAS SHUT DOWN DURING THE DAM WAR.

BUT SOME KIDS WHO COULDN'T COMMUTE ALL THE WAY TO OKINOMIYA KEPT COMING TO SCHOOL.

CHIE-SENSEI KNEW ABOUT IT, AND SHE CAME ALL ALONE TO THE HINAMIZAWA BRANCH SCHOOL, EVEN WHEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TOLD HER TO STOP.

THEN, WITH THE VILLAGE LEADERS' SUPPORT, THEY FORCED THE SCHOOL TO STAY OPEN.

BUT THAT MEANS THE SCHOOL COULD BE SHUT DOWN AGAIN AT ANY TIME.

EH? SO YOU'RE SAYING ...

...IF IT WERE ONLY ABOUT ME, THEN I WOULDN'T CARE.

BUT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE THE SCHOOL.

...NO...!

SO THE VILLAGE BIG SHOTS ARE THREAT-ENING ...

...TO SHUT DOWN THE SCHOOL IF WE DON'T STOP OUR APPEALS !?

I'M SORRY, KEI-CHAN.

...WE CAN'T STOP OUR APPEALS! IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO HELP SATOKO! RIGHT, MION?

BUT ...

I CAN'T HELP YOU EITHER.

HUH?

YOU TOO, MION?

NO...

GAKU (SLUMP)

WHY ...?

JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO...

SHE WAS ENCOUR-AGING ME TO KEEP GOING!

SHE WAS FIGHTING WITH US JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO!

HA GASP

...AH!

CHIEF KIMI-YOSHI!?

...I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU.

OH, YES, MION-CHAN...

IT WAS ON THIS VERY SPOT LAST NIGHT THAT OOISHI-SAN GAVE ME THAT WARNING!

THAT'S RIGHT.

AND THAT IF I WENT AGAINST THAT ORDER, IT WOULD MEAN TURNING THE WHOLE VILLAGE AGAINST ME.

HE SAID...

...THE SONOZAKI FAMILY HAS ORDERED THE VILLAGERS NOT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE HOJOS.

...IS THIS WHAT HE MEANT?

SO NOW CHIEF KIMIYOSHI IS THREATENING CHIE-SENSEI THAT HE'LL CLOSE THE SCHOOL!?

AND HE'S PRESSURING MION TO STOP HELPING!!!?

...HEY.

EXPLAIN IT TO ME.

カ+ KANA (CHIRP)

カ+ KANA

カ+ KANA

カ+

WHO HATES HER!?

WHOSE FAULT IS IT!?

I'LL GO TALK TO THEM!

SO WHY ALL THIS HATE!?

THE DAM WAR IS OVER.

SATOKO'S THE ONLY HOJO LEFT, AND SHE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG.

HP... JA (CRUNCH)

AND I KNOW THAT THAT'S WHY THE WHOLE VILLAGE HATES HER FAMILY.

I KNOW SATOKO'S DAD WAS AGAINST THE DAM WAR.

BUT THE DAM WAR ENDED YEARS AGO, AND SATOKO'S FATHER IS DEAD.

WHO THE HELL IS IT!?

YET THERE'S STILL SOMEONE OUT THERE WHO DESPISES THE HOJO FAMILY AND HATES SATOKO BECAUSE OF IT.

...KEI-CHAN...

...WHO HATES THE HOJO FAMILY ...?

KANA (CH.RP)

KANA

KANA

TO BE HONEST, I DON'T THINK ANYONE DOES.

WHAT ...?

...EVERYONE KNOWS, DEEP DOWN, THAT THE DAM WAR IS OVER AND THAT SATOKO HASN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG.

... BUT ...

WHAT THE...?

AFRAID?

I CAN FILL YOU IN ON THAT.

...THEY'RE ALL AFRAID TO FORGIVE THE HOJOS!

SHI-ON.

GUYS...

THIS VILLAGE FOUND UNITY BY MAKING THE HOJO FAMILY THEIR SCAPE-GOAT.

AND THEY'RE STILL AFRAID OF THE HOJOS NOW.

THEY THINK THAT IF THEY SIDE WITH THE HOJOS, THEY'LL GET THE SAME TREATMENT.

WHAT THE HELL?

...THEY CAN'T BRING THEMSELVES TO DO ANY-THING THAT WOULD MAKE THEM SEEM LIKE HER ALLY.

THAT'S WHY EVEN IF THEY AGREE THAT SATOKO HASN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG ...

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SO THEY DON'T EVEN HATE THE HOJOS...

...BUT THEY THINK THAT IF THEY HELP ANY HOJO, THEY'LL BE ATTACKED TOO.

...AND BECAUSE THEY'RE SCARED, THEY KEEP TORMENTING SATOKO. IS THAT IT?

EVERYONE TREATS SATOKO NORMALLY AT SCHOOL!

BUT HOW CAN THAT BE!?

.....

...ESPECIALLY THE OLDER PEOPLE WHO RUN THE VILLAGE, THEY STILL TREAT SATOKO UNKINDLY, SIR.

BUT THE GROWN-UPS...

THE CHIL-DREN ARE AN EXCEP-TION, SIR.

...EVEN THEY SAID THEY DON'T HATE SATOKO.

WHEN I TALKED TO THEM ALL INDIVIDU-ALLY...

AND THE OTHER SENIORS.

LIKE KIMIYOSHI-JITCHAN OVER THERE.

AND THAT'S WHY NONE OF THEM CAN TAKE SATOKO'S SIDE.

BUT THE ORDER GIVEN DURING THE DAM WAR TO NEVER FORGIVE THE HOJOS HASN'T BEEN LIFTED.

HEY, MII-CHAN.

THAT'S AWFUL ...

...YEAH.

IT WAS YOUR GRANDMA WHO GAVE THAT ORDER, WASN'T IT?

TO WIN THE DAM WAR, BATCHA NEEDED THE VILLAGE TO BE FIRMLY UNIFIED.

THAT WOULDN'T WORK IF MORE PEOPLE CAME OUT IN FAVOR OF THE DAM, LIKE THE HOJOS.

THAT'S WHY.

TO BRING THE VILLAGE TOGETHER ...

...SHE ORDERED THE VILLAGE TO OSTRACIZE THE HOJOS.

TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OUT OF THEM.

...THAT ORDER WAS NEVER LIFTED. IS THAT IT?

...AND ...

SO THERE *IS* SOMEBODY WHO STILL HATES THE HOJO FAMILY— YOUR GRAND-MOTHER.

ISN'T THAT WHY THE ORDER IS STILL IN EFFECT?

WHAT?

I'M SURE YOU ALL THINK THAT.

BUT YOU'RE WRONG.

THE TRUTH IS, EVEN BATCHA...

...I'VE FINALLY FOUND THE ENEMY I NEED TO TAKE DOWN.

IN THAT CASE...

...DOESN'T HATE THE HOJOS ANYMORE.

...WHEN SATOKO'S PARENTS DIED.

BATCHA THINKS THAT THE HOJOS PAID THEIR DUES...

!?

SHE DOESN'T THINK THERE'S ANY REASON TO MAKE SATOKO SUFFER.

...WHA—!?

CAN'T SHE JUST SAY SHE FOR-GIVES THE HOJOS !?

SO WHY WON'T SHE TAKE BACK THE ORDER!?

...THE SONO-ZAKIS WILL LOSE THE HEARTS OF THE VILLAG-ERS...

BATCHA IS AFRAID THAT IF SHE FORGIVES THE HOJO FAMILY...

?

NO, SHE CAN'T.

...AND THE SONOZAKIS WILL LOSE THEIR PLACE AS LEADERS IN HINAMIZAWA.

SHE WORRIES TOO MUCH.

THAT'S STUPID.

YOUR...? WHY?

...FATHER IS PARTLY TO BLAME FOR THAT, SIR.

... MY ...

...MY FATHER WAS THE PRIEST AT FURUDE SHRINE.

AND HE WAS PASSIVE IN THE DAM WAR.

EVER SINCE THEN, THE VILLAGERS HAVE SAID THAT HE WAS A FAILURE AS A LEADER.

RIKA-CHAN'S FATHER WAS A PACIFIST— A WAR DOVE.

AND SO, TO PULL THE VILLAGE TOGETHER ...

...BATCHA TOOK ON THE ROLE OF WAR HAWK AND ASSUMED LEADERSHIP OVER THE VILLAGE.

THE VILLAGERS WANTED A LEADER WHO WOULD FIGHT FOR THEM.

...IT'S ALL SO COMPLI-CATED...

GASHI (SCRATCH)

GASHI

...AS THE WAR HAWK, SHE CAN'T COME OUT AND SAY SHE FORGIVES THE HOJOS.

IN OTHER WORDS ...

SHE CAN'T RISK LOSING HER POSITION AS LEADER.

BATCHA HAS TO CONSIDER THE DEVELOPMENT OF HINA-MIZAWA.

...RIGHT.

BASICALLY, NO ONE HATES SATOKO.

BUT...

...THEY'RE AFRAID TO TAKE HER SIDE.

IT'S SO SAD...

...AND...

KANA (CHIRP)

KANA

KANA

I THINK THAT THIS IS THE REAL "OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE."

...SO STUPID!

EVERYONE IS WORRIED ABOUT UPSETTING SOMEONE IN THE VILLAGE.

BUT THAT "SOMEONE" DOESN'T EXIST.

AND BECAUSE THEY DON'T EXIST, THEY'RE NOT A PERSON.

OYASHIRO-SAMA HAS CURSED THE HOJO FAMILY.

THE CURSE IN STILL IN FORCE, AND IT'S PLAGUING SATOKO AS WE SPEAK.

SURELY THAT MUST BE OYASHIRO-SAMA.

AND NO PERSON CAN STOP THE CURSE.

THIS ISN'T ANY DEITY'S CURSE.

THIS IS HAP-PENING ...

THAT'S RIGHT, RIKA-CHAN.

MEW ... OYASHIRO-SAMA WOULD NEVER CURSE SATOKO.

...BECAUSE OF PEOPLE.

OOO (WHOO)

KEIICHI ...

I THINK THOSE PEOPLE ...

...ARE RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF US! I THINK!

THE VILLAGE ELDERS, WHO ARE MAKING SATOKO SUFFER OUT OF FEAR OF "SOMEONE"...

... THEY'RE ALL TOGETHER, HAVING A MEETING IN THE BUILDING WE'RE LOOKING AT RIGHT NOW.

HEH.

GREAT MINDS THINK ALIKE, RENA.

NIKO (SMILE)

WAIT A SECOND, KEI-CHAN! RENA!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO!?

YOU WOULDN'T... NOT HERE!

I WOULD.

I'M GONNA TAKE THAT CURSE RIGHT HERE AND NOW AND SMASH IT TO LITTLE PIECES!

RENA WON'T HOLD BACK EITHER!

WE'RE GONNA MARCH IN THERE...

...AND GIVE THE VILLAGE CHIEF A PIECE OF OUR MINDS!

THE REAL ARENA WAS HERE ALL ALONG!

I WAS RIGHT WHEN I FELT LIKE TALKING TO THE CONSULTATION CENTER WAS A ONE-MAN SUMO MATCH.

KEI-CHAN ...

... RENA ...

NN-FU-FU-FU.

ZA (ZSH)

DAD !?

OOISHI-SAN? COACH IRIE TOO!?

NIYA (SMIRK)

MAE-BARA-SAN.

YOU SEEM PRETTY FIRED UP.

OOI-SHI-SAN...

THAT REAL MEN HAVE FIGHTS THEY CAN'T BACK DOWN FROM.

...DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YESTERDAY?

SU (SSK)

KEIICHI...

DAD ...

IF I TURN THE VILLAGE BIG SHOTS AGAINST ME...

DAD WILL PROBABLY BE AGAINST THIS.

...IT MIGHT MEAN TOTAL OSTRACISM FOR THE WHOLE MAEBARA FAMILY.

KEIICHI.

BUT I NEED TO DO THIS FOR MY FRIEND—

I KNOW OUR LIFE IN THE VILLAGE IS IMPORTANT TO YOU. DAD.

...BUT...

GU COLENCHO

DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.

...THEN I'M NOT GOING TO ARGUE.

IF NOW IS ONE OF THOSE TIMES FOR YOU...

IT'S JUST LIKE YOU SAID TO OOISHI-SAN.

THERE ARE TIMES IN A MAN'S LIFE WHEN HE CAN'T BACK DOWN.

EH...?

DAD.

OOISHI-SAN...

BUT I CAN STAND AS A WITNESS TO YOUR FIGHT.

...I'M AN OUTSIDER HERE, SO I CAN'T BACK YOU UP.

KEI-CHAN!

MION.

YOU'RE NEXT IN LINE TO LEAD THE SONOZAKI FAMILY.

CONSIDERING YOUR POSITION, IT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU TO STAY OUT OF THIS.

NO.

IF YOU'RE GOING IN THERE, READY TO THROW AWAY YOUR WHOLE LIFE...

MION.

...THEN I AM TOO.

SHII-CHAN.

I NEVER HAD ANYTHING TO LOSE TO BEGIN WITH.

I'M IN TOO.

IF THEY TELL ME TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE, I'M PREPARED TO CLOSE UP THE CLINIC.

BE-SIDES ...

I'LL HELP TOO.

MAE-BARA-KUN.

...IT'S ONLY RIGHT FOR A MASTER TO DO WHATEVER HE CAN TO PROTECT HIS FUTURE MAIDS!

BUT WE'RE NOT AT SCHOOL TODAY.

WE UNDERSTAND YOUR POSITION, CHIE-SENSEI, PRINCIPAL KAIEDA.

I'M NOT YOUR TEACHER RIGHT NOW. SO...

...THAT'S RIGHT.

SO PLEASE, LOOK THE OTHER WAY. LET US DO THIS.

.....!

SENSEI!

...CAN DO ANYTHING TO STOP YOU.

...NEITHER I NOR PRINCIPAL KAIEDA...

RIKA-CHAN.

.....

TODAY ...

...WHEN YOU STOOD UP AND MADE THAT ANNOUNCE-MENT...

...IT MADE ME REALLY HAPPY.

.....

WE WILL HELP SATOKO.

YES!

IT'S NOT THE MALICE OF ANYONE IN THE VILLAGE THAT'S CAUSING SATOKO SO MUCH PAIN...

...IT'S THE BAD AIR THAT'S BEEN LINGERING IN TOWN SINCE THE DAM WAR. AND IF THAT'S THE CASE...

COME ON!

...WE'LL CLEAR THE STALE AIR!

OUR NEW FIGHT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!!

OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE.

EVEN THOUGH NO ONE HATES SATOKO, THEY'RE SO AFRAID OF OSTRACISM THAT THEY CAN'T ASSOCIATE WITH HER.

IT'S THE FOUL AIR IN THE VIL-LAGE —

WE'RE GOING TO GO TO THE SOURCE OF THAT BAD AIR THAT'S LEFT OVER FROM THE DAM WAR...

...AND WE'RE GOING TO CHANGE IT!

WE'LL SAVE YOU NO MATTER WHAT!

JUST YOU WAIT, SATOKO!

ALL RIGHT.

LET'S GO.

KOKLIN (NOD)

CHAPTER 13: THE SPIRIT OF THE DEFENSE ALLIANCE

NOW FOR THE FINAL CHECK BEFORE THE COTTON DRIFTING—

GAYA (MURMUR)

SLI SSK

GAYA

WE'D LIKE TO SAY SOMETHING BEFORE YOU GET STARTED!!

DON (DUN)

EXCUSE US, CHIEF KIMIYOSHI!

.....

SHIN
(SILENCE)

OH, KEIICHI-KUN.

KOHON CAHEM0-

コホン

THE MEETING HAS ALREADY STARTED.

WOULD YOU MIND SAVING YOUR PERSONAL ISSUES TO DISCUSS LATER?

...I KNEW IT.

IT LOOKS LIKE THEY KNOW WE WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE HOJOS.

BUT IF THEY'RE IGNORING US...

...THAT MEANS NO ONE WANTS TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE HOJOS.

IN THAT CASE...

CHIEF KIMIYOSHI, THIS ISN'T A PERSONAL MATTER.

IT'S ABOUT SATOKO.

ZAWA (MURMUR)

ざわ

ざわ

KEIICHI-KUN, WE KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN MAKING APPEALS TO THE CHILD CONSULTATION CENTER.

...WE BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE ENOUGH.

BUT YOU SEE...

IRA (IRK)

WHAT HAVE WE DONE THAT'S "ENOUGH"?

AND HOW IS THAT A REASON TO NOT HELP SATOKO?

IF YOU'RE GOING TO THROW COLD WATER ON OUR PLANS...

YOUR APPEALS! THE DAM WAR ENDED LONG AGO!

WE DON'T NEED TO GANG UP ON GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THIS DAY AND AGE!

GUO (ROAR)

...THEN TRY GIVING US A REASON THAT MAKES SOME DAMN SENSE!!

...WHA—!?

ZAWA (MURMUR)

HOW DARE YOU SPEAK TO US LIKE THAT!?

ZAWA

ZAWA

ZAWA

ZAWA

I'D LIKE TO SEE THE FACE OF THE MAN THAT RAISED THIS DISRESPECTFUL BRAT!

THIS IS THE PROBLEM WITH KIDS THESE DAYS!

GISHI (CREAK)

EXCUSE ME.

SU (SSK)

I AGREE THAT I PROBABLY FALL INTO THE "FAILURE AS A FATHER" CATEGORY.

DAD...

SORRY IT'S NOT MUCH TO LOOK AT, BUT HERE'S WHAT MY FACE LOOKS LIKE.

SFX: ZAWA (MURMUR) ZAWA

I CERTAINLY CAN'T HOLD MY HEAD HIGH AND SAY I'VE RAISED KEIICHI TO BE A FINE, UPSTANDING YOUNG MAN.

... HOW-EVER.

ONE LOOK'D TELL US THAT.

HMPH!

HA... YOU GOT THAT RIGHT.

SHIN (SILENCE)

THIS YOUNG MAN, KEIICHI MAE-BARA, IS STAND-ING IN FRONT OF YOU, TRYING TO TELL YOU...

...THERE'S SOME-THING HE DOESN'T UNDER-STAND!

GIRORI (GLARE)

AND MY FACE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!

.....!

GU (GRIT)

...THAT WAS TOTALLY AWE-SOME.

DAD...

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE HOLDING YOUR HEAD PRETTY HIGH TO ME.

NN FU FU.

UM, EXCUSE ME.

WHY IS IT THAT THE DAM WAR BEING OVER MEANS WE SHOULDN'T APPEAL TO THE CHILD CONSULTATION CENTER?

...NOW HINAMIZAWA IS WORKING WITH THE GOVERN-MENT. WE WANT TO REPAIR OUR RELATIONSHIP AFTER THE DAMAGE DONE DURING THE WAR.

REINA-CHAN. WITH THE WAR OVER, THERE'S NO REASON FOR THE VILLAGE TO FIGHT THE GOVERNMENT.

RIGHT, EXACTLY. THANK YOU, REINA-CHAN. UNLIKE THE MAEBARAS, WE CAN HAVE A CIVIL CONVERSATION WITH YOU.

WELL, IT IS IMPORTANT TO GET ALONG WITH THE GOVERN-MENT.

KUSU (CHUCKLE)

...THE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES THE TOWN COUNCIL WITH AN ENOR-MOUS AMOUNT OF FUNDING FOR THE VARIOUS HINAMIZAWA EVENTS.

WITH THEIR END-OF-THE-YEAR AND NEW YEAR'S GIFTS ...

THAT'S NOT THE ONLY REASON, IS IT?

!

AND WITHOUT THAT FUNDING, THE COTTON DRIFTING FESTIVAL MAY NEED TO CLOSE ITS GATES NEXT YEAR.

HOW... DO YOU KNOW THAT?

SH... SHION-CHAN.

THAT'S WHY, IN THIS DAY AND AGE, HINAMIZAWA WAGS ITS TAIL FOR THE GOV-ERNMENT.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, OJII-CHAN?

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE TRYING TO STIFLE OUR EFFORTS.

HEY, SOME-THING'S NOT RIGHT.

DO YOU GET IT, RENA?

OH, YOU KNOW. EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE I LIKE TO STAND IN FOR ONEE AS ACTING HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY.

...THEY'RE IN CAHOOTS WITH THE PEOPLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT, SO THEY DON'T WANT TO MAKE THEM UPSET.

YUP! BASI-CALLY...

NIKO (SMILE)

ZAWA (MURMUR)

DOYA

THOSE LITTLE... WE LET THEM HAVE THEIR SAY, AND WE GET NOTHING BUT DIS-RESPECT!

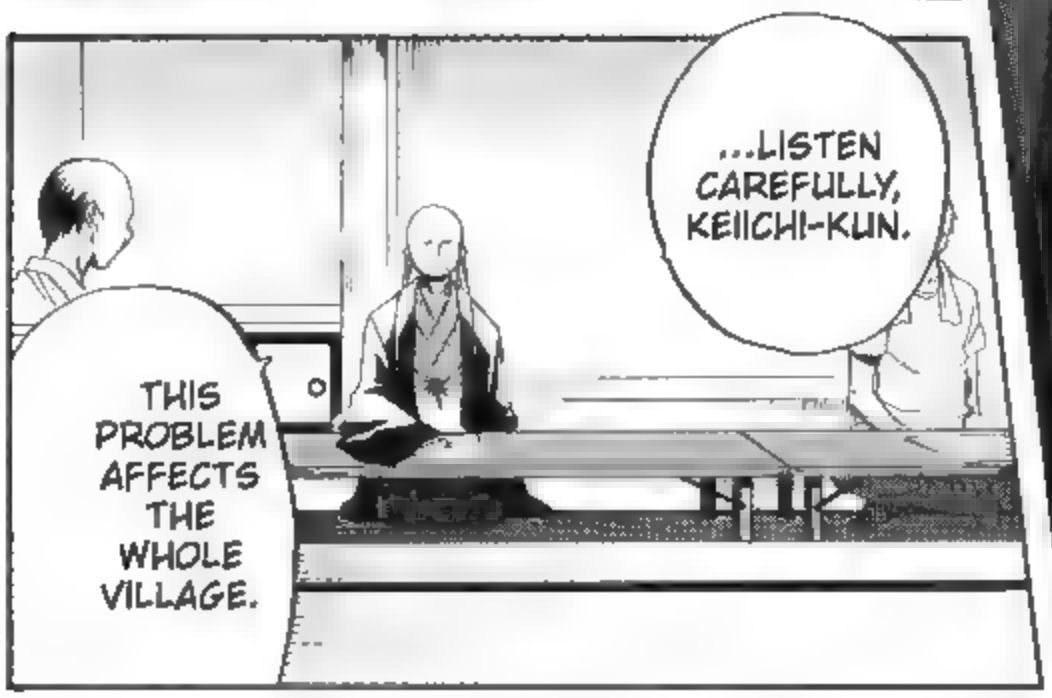
DOYA (CLAMOR)

THAT'S NOT THE ONLY REA-SON!

ZAWA

ZAWA

Y...YOU DON'T KNOW ANY-THING!


...LISTEN CAREFULLY, KEIICHI-KUN.
THIS PROBLEM AFFECTS THE WHOLE VILLAGE.

ORDER! ORDER !!

BECAUSE OF THE DAM WAR, HINAMIZAWA HAS BUILT A BAD REPUTATION FOR BEING VOLATILE.

RIGHT NOW, WE NEED TO ERASE THAT NEGATIVE IMAGE TO HELP THE VILLAGE GROW AND THRIVE.

IN OTHER WORDS, IF YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS GIVE THE CHILD CONSULTATION CENTER TOO MUCH TROUBLE WITH YOUR APPEALS...

...THE FAVORABLE RELATIONSHIP WE'VE WORKED SO HARD TO BUILD WILL BE DESTROYED.

WHAT THE HELL?

SO YOUR FRIENDSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN SAVING SATOKO?

THAT'S RIGHT, KEI-CHAN.

THAT'S WHY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL IS WORKING TO STOP OUR APPEALS— FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

...I SEE.

SOUNDS TO ME LIKE THE HINAMI-ZAWA COUNCIL ...

...IS THE GOVERN-MENT'S LITTLE LAPDOG.

ZUI (ZOOM)

GATA (CLATTER)

WHY, YOU ...!

THAT'S GOING TOO FAR!

HOW DARE YOU ...

... SPEAK TO YOUR ELDERS THAT WAY!?

SHUT UP.

WHAT!?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO SHUT UP!

MU (GRR)

THIS IS A MATTER OF SPIRIT.

WHO GIVES A DAMN ABOUT MANNERS?

...COCKY LITTLE—!

YOU...

ANY COWARD WHO CAN'T STAND UP AND FIGHT FOR A CITIZEN OF HIS VILLAGE SHOULD STAND ASIDE!!

BOKON (WHAM)

THAT HURT ...!

KEI-ICHI!

DO (WHUMP)

ドン

ドゴ

!?

BOKON

コーン!!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING !?

!

RENA.

TSUKA

TSUKA (SCUFF)

REINA-CHAN, STAY BACK! YOU COULD GET HURT!

SHUT UP!

DON'T MESS WITH ME, BOY!

SU (SSK)

GA (LOCK)

カ!!

BOKON (WHAM)

WHA ...?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING !?

BuRu (TREMBLE)

BuRu

BOKON

DON'T THINK I'LL GO EASY ON YOU JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A GIRL!

IF ONE IS STRUCK ...

...TWO STRIKE BACK.

ISN'T THAT THE HINA-MIZAWA SPIRIT!?

!!

THAT'S RIGHT... ... RENA!

IF ONE THROWS STONES ...

...TWO THROW BACK.

IF THREE, SIX.

RIGHT.

RIGHT, MION!?

JUST LIKE WHAT'S WRITTEN IN THAT FRAME.

FLAG (ABOVE LEFT): ONI / ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE

IF ONE OF US IS BULLIED, THEN ALL OF US ARE.

WE ALL UNITE FOR THE SAKE OF ONE.

IF EIGHT COME AT YOU WITH CLUBS, CHASE THEM OFF WITH SIX-TEEN.

AND IF A THOUSAND, FIGHT BACK AS A WHOLE VILLAGE.

SIGN: ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE CREED—IF ONE THROWS STONES, TWO THROW BACK. IF TWO, THEN FOUR. IF FOUR, THEN EIGHT. IF EIGHT COME AT YOU WITH CLUBS, CHASE THEM OFF WITH SIXTEEN. AND IF A THOUSAND, FIGHT BACK AS A WHOLE VILLAGE.

THAT IS THE ROCK-HARD SOLIDARITY OF THE ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE!

...!

AND DON'T TRY TO TELL US YOU'RE TOO SENILE TO REMEMBER!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO STRIKE RENA-SAN ...

IF STONES ARE THROWN AT TWO, THEN FOUR THROW BACK.

... THEY'RE RIGHT.

...THEN WE FOUR WILL HAVE TO FIGHT BACK.

ZA (ZSH)

!!

R...

RIKA-CHAMA, YOU TOO ...?

GUYS ...!

I WILL BE JOINING MAEBARA-KUN AS WELL.

おず
OZU (FIDGET)

SENSEI ...

CHIE-SENSEI ...

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO STOP YOUR STU-DENTS!

I WAS WRONG.

...NOTHING WE CAN DO WILL EVER BRING HER BACK.

BUT IF WE LOSE SATOKO-CHAN...

...WE CAN JUST REBUILD IT.

IF WE LOSE THE SCHOOL ...

SENSEI ...!

THAT ...

AS AN EDUCATOR, I CANNOT TELL MAEBARA-KUN TO STOP WHAT HE IS DOING!

...IS CHIE-SENSEI'S CLEAR ANSWER ...

...TO THE ENEMY WHO TRIED TO INTIMIDATE HER!

SHIN (SILENCE)

DOO

EVERY-ONE IS STANDING UP...

.....

...FOR SATOKO.

BUT THESE GUYS WON'T BEND.

THEY'RE STILL IN THE GOVERNMENT'S POCKET.

HOW CAN WE GET THEM TO UNDERSTAND HOW WE FEEL!?

GIRL GRITS

MION?

DO YOU STILL INSIST ON PRESSURING US?

CHIEF.

SU (SSK)

SIGN. ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE

THIS ISN'T JUST AN ASSEMBLY HALL.

IT USED TO BE THE MAIN HEADQUARTERS OF THE ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE.

AND EVERYONE HERE WAS A LEADER IN THAT ALLIANCE.

...THEN THEY SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO CROSS THE THRESHOLD INTO THIS ROOM.

IF THERE ARE MEN HERE WHO HAVE FORGOTTEN THE SPIRIT OF THE DEFENSE ALLIANCE...

THAT'S RIGHT.

SIGN: ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE CREED

SIGNATURE: KIMIYOSHI

MION-CHAN.

HA (GASP)

AH ...!

FLAG. ONI / ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!

...AREN'T OUR ENEMIES.

THE PEOPLE HERE...

THEY'RE THE MEN OF THE ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE...

...WHO ONCE STOOD TOGETHER TO PROTECT HINAMI-ZAWA!!!

SASH: ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE　HEADBANDS: AGAINST THE DAM　BANNERS: DEFEND HINAMIZAWA!

CHIEF KIMI-YOSHI!

NO ...

...ALL OF YOU! PLEASE LISTEN!

...MION AND THE OTHERS HAVE TOLD ME A LOT ABOUT THE COURAGE YOU ALL SHOWED IN THE DAM WAR.

SINCE I MOVED HERE...

SIGN: AGAINST THE DAM SASH: HINAMIZAWA DEFENSE

BUT...

...THIS SMALL VILLAGE RALLIED TOGETHER AND REPELLED EVERY ONE OF THEIR ADVANCES!

THEY DID WHATEVER THEY COULD TO CHASE YOU OUT.

THE GOVERNMENT TRIED TO SEND HINAMIZAWA TO THE BOTTOM OF A LAKE.

...ARE PROOF OF YOUR FIGHT AND YOUR STRONG WILL, AM I RIGHT !?

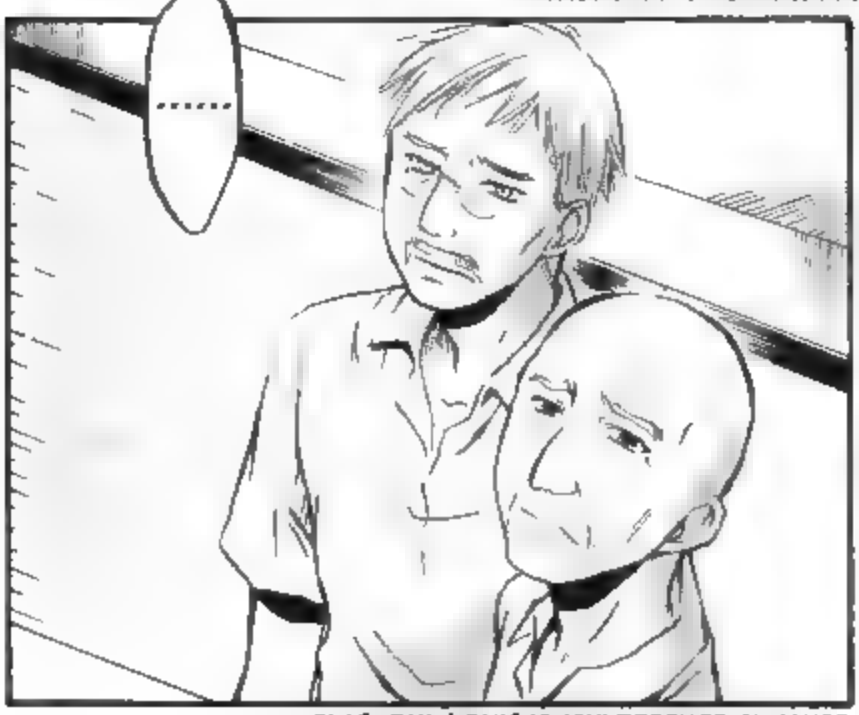
THOSE PICTURE FRAMES AND THE ALLIANCE FLAG THAT ADORN THESE WALLS ...

HA (GASP)

!!

BANNERS: ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE / HINAMIZAWA DAM PROTEST / PROTECT HINAMIZAWA! / STOP THE HINAMIZAWA DAM

FLAG: ONI / ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE



FLAG: ONI / ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE

...THEN I NEVER WOULD HAVE MET THE DEAR FRIENDS I'VE MADE HERE!

IF YOU HADN'T ALL FOUGHT AND DEFENDED HINAMIZAWA ...

...MAE-BARA-KUN...

AND SO I AM TRULY GRATEFUL!

I KNOW IT'S STILL IN EVERY ONE OF YOU.

A HEART THAT TAKES PRIDE IN UNITY!

A HEART THAT WILL UNITE WITH ALL THE VILLAGERS TO PROTECT THE ONE!

!

W... WELL...I SUPPOSE...

IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN YOU SHOULD REVIVE THE ALLI-ANCE...

...AND FIGHT THE GOVERNMENT TO SAVE SATOKO— ONE OF YOUR OWN. AM I RIGHT?

...YOU BOWED TO THE GOVERNMENT AND TRIED TO STOP US FROM MAKING OUR APPEALS!

BUT FAR FROM HELPING HER...

...AND SAT BACK TO LET HER DIE!!!

YOU IGNORED SATOKO JUST BECAUSE SHE'S A HOJO...

AND SO...

SU (55K)

URK...

WE...

GASHI (GRAB)

...IF YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP GETTING IN OUR WAY AND DEFILING THE SPIRIT OF THE DEFENSE ALLIANCE...

...THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SMASH EVERY ONE OF THESE PICTURE FRAMES!

AND RIP YOUR FLAG TO SHREDS !!

FLAG: ONI / ONIGAMICHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE

FLAG: ONIGAFUCHI

BACK THEN...

...WE FOUGHT UNDER THAT FLAG.

WAAA

WAAA

WAAA

WAAA

WAAA (RAAAH)

WAAA

WAAA

WE OPPOSE THE HINA-MIZAWA DAM PROJ-ECT!

BANNER: ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE

FLAG: DEFEND HINAMIZAWA!

WAAA

WAAA

WAAA (RAAAH)

TO PROTECT OUR VILLAGE.

TO PROTECT OUR SPIRIT.

BANNER: STOP THE DAM CONSTRUCTION! SIGNS: STOP THE DAM! / AGAINST THE DAM!

FLAG: ONI / ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE

SASHES: STOP THE HINAMIZAWA DAM / ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE / AGAINST THE DAM / DEFEND HINAMIZAWA!

UNDER THIS FLAG.

BANNERS: HINAMIZAWA / ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE / HINAMIZAWA DAM PROTEST

SIGN: PROTECT HINAMIZAWA

...JUST LIKE WE WERE.

THEY'RE...

THEY'RE FIGHTING WITH ALL OF THEIR SOULS!

HOW CAN THIS BE...?

THIS CHILD HASN'T BEEN IN HINAMIZAWA FOR EVEN A YEAR.

AND HERE HE IS, INSTRUCTING US ON THE SPIRIT OF THE DEFENSE ALLIANCE.

GU

GU

GU (CLENCH)

KEIICHI-KUN, WE WERE WRONG.

スッ (SU) (SSK)

SATOKO-CHAN IS ONE OF OUR VILLAGERS.

WE WILL FIGHT WITH YOU!

CHIEF!

I'LL FIGHT TOO!

GATA (CLATTER)

カタ

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO TALK TO YOUR ELDERS, BUT YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT SPIRIT!

GATA

ガタ

I AGREE!

FIGHTING THE GOVERNMENT ON EQUAL GROUND IS ONE THING, BUT FRATERNIZING WITH 'EM— THAT'S JUST EMBARRASSING!

EVERY-ONE ...!

THE KIMIYOSHI FAMILY BEARS NO GRUDGE AGAINST THE HOJOS.

OF COURSE NOT.

SATOKO-CHAN S JUST A LITTLE GIRL. SHE DIDN'T DO ANY-THING.

BE-SIDES, IT WAS HER PARENTS WHO WERE IN FAVOR OF THE DAM.

YEAH. TO BE HONEST, I ALWAYS THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG WITH HATING SATOKO-CHAN FOREVER.

SO YOU DON'T HATE SATOKO ANYMORE?

AH...

WE'RE SORRY, KEIICHI-KUN.

TRULY SORRY...

WHEW.

NO ONE REALLY HATED SATOKO.

NO... WE'RE SORRY FOR ALL THE TERRIBLE THINGS WE SAID.

NO, IT'S ALL RIGHT.

ALLLL RIGHT! NOW THAT'S SETTLED, KEIICHI-KUN HAS THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE HINAMIZAWA COUNCIL!

NOW OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE IS LIFTED!!

OOOO (RAAAAH)

YEAH!

IT'S TIME TO RALLY THE DEFENSE ALLIANCE AGAIN!

WE'LL FIGHT TO SAVE SATOKO-CHAN TOO!

THIS IS WHO THEY REALLY ARE.

YES!

THE HOT-BLOODED MEN OF HINAMI-ZAWA!!

WA (BEAM)

I'M SO GLAD!

WE DID IT, SIR!

YEAH!

YOU'RE A GOOD TEACHER, CHIE-SENSEI!!

YOU WERE ALL SO INTENSE.

NN FU FU.

WHEN DID HE GET TO BE SO GROWN UP?

HA HA.

I'M HIS FATHER, AND I'M MORE SURPRISED THAN ANYONE.

YOUR SON REALLY KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING.

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT HE WOULD WIN OVER THE TOWN COUNCIL?

I HOPE IT KEEPS GOING HIS WAY.

WAI (CHATTER)

WAI

BECAUSE HIS NEXT ENEMY WILL BE SOMEONE EVEN I CAN'T HANDLE.

©Ryukishi07/Project Higurashi
When They Cry

ABOUT THE "MASSACRE ARC": THE SOURCE OF TERROR

ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR: RYUKISHI07

THE "MASSACRE ARC" IS THE STORY IN WHICH ALL THE MYSTERIES OF *HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY* ARE SOLVED. BASICALLY, THAT MEANS IT'S SOMETHING OF A POINT OF NO RETURN—ONCE YOU'VE READ THIS STORY, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING AND YOU'LL NEVER REEXPERIENCE THE SUSPENSE AND EXCITEMENT YOU FELT BEFORE YOU READ IT. AND SO, I REMEMBER WHEN I RELEASED THIS ARC, I FELT VERY SAD BECAUSE WE WERE REACHING THE FINAL STAGES WHEN I WOULD HAVE TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO *HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY*.

NOW, IN THE "MASSACRE ARC," WE MEET A NEW CHARACTER—HANYU. SHE IS A MYSTERIOUS BEING, AND YOU COULD SAY THAT SHE IS THE EMBODIMENT OF OYASHIRO-SAMA. THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE DEITY AROUND WHOM SUCH EERIE TRADITIONS REVOLVE AS TOLD IN ALL THE OTHER ARCS IS THIS STRANGE LITTLE GIRL. I SUPPOSE A LOT OF READERS WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT SHE WASN'T MUCH MORE DIGNIFIED. AND OF COURSE, I DESIGNED HER DELIBERATELY WITH THAT IN MIND. IT'S JUST LIKE RENA'S PARANOIA IN THE "ATONEMENT ARC." ...WHEN YOU LEARN THAT THE "OYASHIRO-SAMA" THAT YOU'VE FEARED ALL THIS TIME, IMAGINING SOME KIND OF GHASTLY CREATURE, IS THIS PATHETIC CRYBABY OF A GIRL, YOU'LL NEVER BE AFRAID OF HER AGAIN. NOTHING IS MORE TERRIFYING THAN SOMETHING YOU'VE DECIDED YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

THAT IS THE SOURCE OF EVERYTHING THAT GOES BY THE NAME TERROR. PEOPLE FEAR WHAT THEY ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH. THAT BEING THE CASE, ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW SOMETHING, THE FEAR IS SWEPT AWAY. GET TO KNOW THE THING YOU FEAR, AND WHEN YOU UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, THERE WILL BE NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.

THAT'S THE MESSAGE I WANTED TO DELIVER BY MAKING HANYU SO DIFFERENT FROM WHAT ALL THE OTHER STORIES WOULD HAVE MADE YOU IMAGINE.

Thank you so much for staying with us so far. At about the end of Volume 2, Kenichi and company got a lot more people to join their fight. And as that happened, the number of background characters really grew...
I hope I can keep working hard without getting discouraged, just like Kenichi and company.

Momo

Special special thanks!

Original Story, Supervisor. Ryukishi-sama, BT-sama

Editors: Nakagawa-sama, Koizumi-sama

My Assistants: Ekuni-kun, Hime-sama, Cyco-sama,
Mito-sama, Muramura-sama, Motchii-sama

& my family, & everyone who read this!!!

My image of Rika-chan
= Dice = a Gambler

CINDERELLA

IN A CERTAIN KINGDOM, THERE WAS A GIRL CALLED CINDERELLA.

Sister 2: Keiichi

Sister 1: Shion

Mother: Teppei

CINDERELLA HAD A STEP-MOTHER AND TWO STEP-SISTERS.

The men are wearing padding.

COME ON.

NOOOOO!

HERE'S SOME PUMPKIN FOR YOU!

YOU CAN'T BE SO PICKY!

GASSHIRI (CLAMP)

がっしり

Dust

EXCUSE ME, CINDERELLA. BUT I BELIEVE YOU MISSED A SPOT.

AND THEY WERE CRUEL TO HER.

KUWA (RAWR)

THIS AIN'T NO GAME, DAMMIT!

TRAPS

ONE DAY ...

THERE'S A BALL AT THE PALACE, SO GET YOUR ASSES OVER THERE!

ZURU (DRAG)

ZURU

SATO-KODOD!

YOU TAKE CARE OF THINGS HERE, CIN-DERELLA!

WHEW.

I'M FINALLY ALONE.

WAKU (EXCITED) WAAAKU

NOW'S MY CHANCE TO WORK ON MY HOBBY— SETTING TRAPS!

HM-HMM-HMMM! ♪

BYON (TWANG)

DOSA (THUD)

DOSA

DOSA

UHH, UHH!

UU... UHH !?

UHH !?

SFX: GOSO (RUMMAGE) GOSO

...WHO'S THAT?

?

PUSHUUU (PSHHH)

SHE CAUGHT A FAIRY.

FAIRY

I CAME TO MAKE IT SO YOU CAN GO TO THE BALL.

I'M A FAIRY, CINDERELLA, SIR.

I'D RATHER STAY HOME AND MAKE TRAPS...

B-B-B-BUT THAT'S HOW THE STORY GOES!

BUT...!

EH!?

THAT'S OKAY.

I'M NOT INTERESTED.

UHH!?

ピカ

PIKAAA (FLASH)

BA (WHIP)

YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE!

I'LL HAVE TO USE MY MAGIC!

NIKOOOR! (SMIIILE)

しゅば、

SHUBA (BOLT)

RIGHT AWAY!!

WHEW.

I SURE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU IN A BALL GOWN, CINDERELLA.

Cameo appearance: Satoshi

TRANS☆FORM! OR... COSPLAY

WE'LL START WITH THE DRESS!

PON (POOF)

!

Umineko →

JUST A—

THIS ISN'T A BALL GOWN!

GA (GRAB)

UHH?

YOU DON'T LIKE IT, SIR?

OF COURSE NOT!

THEN LET'S TRY AGAIN!

-ZOOO

TO HER SHAME...

Prince Irry

WHEN SHE ARRIVED AT THE PALACE...

KO (CLACK)

I...

...I'M SO EMBAR-RASSED...

ZUKYUUUN (TWAAANG)

HOW...HOW CHARMING !!

PRINCE IRRY, SHALL I STOP THAT NOSEBLEED FOR YOU?

WHO IS THAT GIRL!?

WHO IS THAT !?

UNINTENTIONALLY...

THEN THE CLOTHES WILL DISAPPEAR AND IT WILL BE JUST TERRIBLE, SIR.

THE SPELL WILL WEAR OFF AT MIDNIGHT.

BOOON (GOOONG)

BOOON

HA (GASP)

SHE LEFT BEHIND THESE BUNNY EARS. THEY'RE MY ONLY CLUE...

PORORI (FLUTTER)

OH NO! I HAVE TO GET HOME!

AH!

DASSHU (DASH)

SO (SLIP)

THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I DON'T THINK YOU'RE A FREAK OR A PERVERT OR ANYTHING OF THE SORT.

YOU DO THINK IT!

!!?

OH, NO, THIS IS—I'M JUST—

IT WAS A PASSING WHIM!

KUSU (CHUCKLE) KUSU

THEY LOOK LOVELY ON YOU, YOUR HIGH-NESS.

KA (FLASH)

THAT IS THE GIRL I WILL MARRY!

DOCTOR! FIND ME A GIRL WHO LOOKS GOOD WITH THESE BUNNY EARS ON!

AND SO...

TAKE A LOOK, YOUR HIGHNESS.

CUT THAT OUT..

I. I'M TAKING YOU HOME WITH ME..!

IF I MARRY THE PRINCE

THE WHOLE KING-DOM'S TREA-SURE IS MINE!

THIS IS SO EMBAR-RASS ING.

HMMM, NONE OF THEM CAN PULL IT OFF.

IT'S HOPE-LESS..

Apparently they're not his type.

HEY. DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS A TERRIBLE WAY TO TREAT YOUR PRINCE?

PUN (FLUME)

PUN

AS EXPECTED, IT ALL COMES BACK TO THIS

Not listening.

YOU'RE GOING TO BE MY QUEEN, SO YOU'LL NEED TO DRESS AP-PROPRIATELY.

WHAT? I HAVE TO MARRY YOU?

AFTER SEARCHING FAR AND WIDE, HE FINALLY FOUND CINDERELLA, BUT...

VIVA MAIDS!

PER-FECT!

YOU LOOK PER-FECT!

DON (CLINK)

WHY AM I IN A MAID UNIFORM !?

GON (CLANG)

WASHTUB

GLI (FLING)

...THE ENGAGE-MENT WAS CALLED OFF.

With no further discussion.

Higurashi

WHEN THEY CRY

MASSACRE ARC

KAI

WAI (CHATTER)

THE VILLAGE CHIEF AND EVERYONE WHO REFUSED TO HAVE ANY DEALINGS WITH THE HOJO FAMILY AFTER THE DAM WAR...

...TOLD US THAT THEY DON'T HATE SATOKO AND THAT THEY'LL SUPPORT OUR CAUSE.

THIS IS GREAT!

NOW OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE IS BROKEN!

KEIICHI.

!

RIGHT...

WE STILL HAVE TO FACE ORYOU, SIR!

...BUT STILL CAN'T SAY THAT SHE FOR-GIVES THE HOJOS.

THERE'S STILL ONE LEFT.

SOME-ONE WHO DOESN'T HATE SATOKO ...

TO THIS DAY, ALL BIG DECISIONS IN THE VILLAGE ARE MADE BY THE CONSENT OF THE THREE FAMILIES.

KEI-CHAN.

HERE IN HINAMIZAWA, THE SONOZAKI, KIMIYOSHI, AND FURUDE FAMILIES ARE CALLED THE THREE FAMILIES.

SO IF YOU WANT TO MOBILIZE THE VILLAGE COUNCIL, YOU STILL NEED PERMISSION FROM THE LAST OF THE THREE FAMILIES— THE SONOZAKIS.

ORYOU-SAN...?

ZUN (GLOOM)

IS THERE A PROBLEM?

I'M ASHAMED TO ADMIT IT, KEIICHI-KUN, BUT RIKA-CHAN IS RIGHT.

RIKA-CHAN...?

KEI-ICHI... ...EVERY-ONE IS AFRAID OF ORYOU, SIR.

IN FACT...

WITH HER AUTHORITY, KILLING A MAN WOULD BE AS EASY AS BLINKING.

THE SONOZAKI CLAN INCLUDES ALL TYPES— FROM LOCAL CONGRESS-MEN TO YAKUZA.

AND ORYOU-SAN RULES OVER THEM ALL.

—!?

IT'S ONLY A RUMOR.

SH...SHE WOULD DO THAT!?

THE SONOZAKIS' BASEMENT AND TORTURED TO DEATH.

...IS TAKEN TO THE SONOZAKIS'

...THEY SAY THAT ANYONE WHO DEFIES OR OPPOSES ORYOU-SAN IN ANY WAY...

OH.

RIGHT ...

BUT ORYOU-SAN'S COMMAND TO STAY AWAY FROM THE HOJO FAMILY HASN'T BEEN LIFTED.

EVERY-ONE HERE THINKS THAT ORYOU-SAN, THE MOST POWERFUL PERSON IN THE VILLAGE...

...STILL HATES THE HOJO FAMILY.

...IN THAT CASE.

THEY'RE AFRAID OF OPPOSING ORYOU-SAN.

THAT'S WHY THEY'RE AFRAID TO HELP SATOKO.

...

I WILL TALK TO ORYOU-SAN!

VERY WELL, THEN.

I'LL GO WITH YOU, KEIICHI-KUN.

THANK YOU.

WITH THIS, WE WILL SAVE SATOKO!

CHAPTER 14:
SHOWDOWN WITH ORYOU

...WE MET AT THE SONOZAKI ESTATE.

THE NEXT NIGHT ...

...AFTER MAKING OUR FOURTH APPEAL...

SIGN: SONOZAKI

GUESS IT MAKES SENSE, THEM BEING THE MOST INFLUENTIAL FAMILY IN THE VILLAGE AND ALL...

...EVERY TIME I COME HERE, I'M AMAZED AT HOW RIDICU-LOUSLY GIGANTIC IT IS.

GISHI

GISHI (CREAK)

.....

...THE VILLAGE CHIEF WARNED ME YESTERDAY.

GISHI

GISHI

GISHI

...IS THIS ORYOU-SAN?

JUST HOW SCARY...

...ORYOU-SAN'S OWN RELATIVES, ARE PRAC-TICALLY SCARED STIFF.

BUT EVEN MION AND SHION...

GARA (RATTLE)

EXCUSE US!

BLIWA (WHOOOM)

ZOKU (CHILL)

...HUH?

...HER PRESENCE IS SO OVER-POWER-ING!!

...THAN EVERY-ONE ELSE HERE, BUT...

SHE'S SO MUCH SMALLER ...

WHOA...

...
THANK YOU
...

...FOR COMING TOGETHER TO SPEAK WITH US TODAY.

SINCE YOU HAVEN'T MET, LET US INTRODUCE YOU, KEI-CHAN.

ON HER LEFT IS OUR MOTHER, AKANE SONOZAKI.

...THE CURRENT HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY...

...ORYOU SONO-ZAKI.

THIS IS OUR GRAND-MOTH-ER...

...HELLO. MY NAME IS KEIICHI MAEBARA.

IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.

THEN...

...WE EXPLAINED TO ORYOU-SAN WHAT SATOKO IS CURRENTLY DEALING WITH.

...SO YOU SEE...

...WE NEED THE SONOZAKIS' HELP TO SAVE SATOKO.

IT'S NOT AS IF SHE'S ON THE VERGE OF DEATH.

YOU YOUNG PEOPLE MAKE SUCH A FUSS OVER EVERY-THING.

!

WELL, IT'S TRUE HER LIFE MIGHT NOT BE IN ANY IMMEDIATE DANGER, BUT...

ORYOU ...

YA BUNCH OF LILY-LIVERED YELLOW-BELLIES!

THEN STOP WHINING ABOUT IT, YOU STUPID GIRL!

BA (BAM)

IF IT'S NOT A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH, THERE'S NO POINT IN BLUBBERING ABOUT IT!!

SHIN (SILENCE)

ORYOU!

SATOKO IS MY DEAREST FRIEND!

I WANT YOU TO HELP HER, SIR!

...I SEE.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE SHE'S ACTUALLY FORGIVEN SATOKO.

THIS IS WHY EVERY-ONE'S AFRAID OF HER.

THEY WON'T SAVE HER IN TIME!

WHAT MORE CAN YOU ASK?

...THE CHILD CONSULTATION CENTER IS DOING WHAT THEY CAN TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION.

RIKA-CHAMA ...

NO MATTER HOW MANY APPEALS WE MAKE, THEY WON'T LISTEN!

THE CONSULTATION CENTER THINKS THAT THE VILLAGE COUNCIL HAS DEALT WITH US.

WE CAN'T CHANGE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND THE GOVERNMENT WITHOUT YOUR HELP!

WITHOUT YOUR HELP, WE CAN'T SAVE SATOKO!

THE VILLAGE COUNCIL HAS ALREADY MADE UP ITS MIND!

ALL WE NEED IS YOUR APPROVAL, BATCHA, AND THEY'LL WORK WITH US!

...

AH...

YOU GIRLS REMEMBER MR. AND MRS. HOJO DURING THE DAM WAR, DON'T YOU?

... EVEN SO.

THIS IS BETWEEN THE SONOZAKIS AND THE HOJOS.

THAT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT WE CAN FORGIVE SO EASILY.

...SO BASI-CALLY ...

...THEY OFFENDED YOU, AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN OVER IT.

...THEY PUBLICLY ...

... ABUSED BABA-SAMA.

DAN BAM

THAT COUPLE ...

...TRIED TO SELL OUT HINAMI-ZAWA.

... AND ...

...WAS SUCH A PETTY OLD BAT.

WOW. I HAD NO IDEA THE SONOZAKI HEAD...

YOUNG MAN. WATCH YOUR TONGUE.

I'M SORRY. I KNOW I'M BEING RUDE, BUT I HAVE MORE TO SAY.

ORYOU-SAN, WE'RE NOT ASKING YOU TO JOIN US IN MAKING OUR APPEALS.

ALL WE'RE ASKING IS FOR YOU TO NOD YOUR HEAD.

.....

AND IF I REFUSE?

THEN I'LL BREAK YOUR HEAD OPEN RIGHT HERE ...

...MAKE MION THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY, AND GET HER TO HELP US.

GYORO (GLARE)

HOW DARE YOU SPEAK TO ME THAT WAY, YOU DAMN BRAT!?

DON (DUN)

I'LL SLICE YOU INTO PIECES AND TOSS YOU DOWN THE WELL!!

W...

...WOW, THIS IS SCARY...

SO THIS IS THE AWE-INSPIRING INTENSITY OF THE SONOZAKI HEAD.

SATOKO WON'T LAST MORE THAN A FEW DAYS.

BUT UNFORTUNATELY, I CAN'T BACK DOWN EITHER.

IF THAT HAPPENS, MY EYES WILL RUN DRY FROM CRYING TEARS OF REMORSE.

IN JUST A FEW DAYS, SATOKO WILL FALL APART.

AND IF IT'S SOMETHING I'M GOING TO REGRET THAT MUCH, THEN I WILL FIGHT WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT TO STOP IT!!

ALL RIGHT, GRANNY.

SATOKO IS MY FRIEND.

...I'M JUST GOING TO SAY IT.

I FIGHT FOR MY FRIENDS!

WHAT ABOUT YOU!?

YEARS AGO, THE WHOLE VILLAGE WOULD BAND TO-GETHER AND FIGHT ON BEHALF OF EVEN ONE OF ITS OWN.

ISN'T THAT HOW YOU OVER-TURNED THE DAM PROJECT!?

HMPH.

I'M SURPRISED YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT, OUTSIDER.

...WHAT!?

DON (PLUNG)

HEY.

I AM KEIICHI MAE-BARA OF HINAMI-ZAWA!

I MAY NOT HAVE BEEN HERE LONG, BUT I'M FIGHTING FOR MY FELLOW VILLAGER!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, YOU OLD HAG!

(WOOOOHM)
OOOO

DON'T YOU DARE CALL ME AN OUT-SIDER!!

CALM DOWN, KEIICHI-KUN.

YOU SEE, THIS IS A MATTER OF RESTI-TUTION.

RESTITUTION?

HOW-EVER...

...THE ONES WHO NEED TO MAKE THAT RESTITUTION ARE NO LONGER WITH US.

WE LIVE IN A WORLD OF GIVE-AND-TAKE.

IF SOMEONE BOWS HIS HEAD IN HUMBLE APOLOGY, THEN THE MATTER IS WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE. WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LET IT DRIFT AWAY.

THEN WE'LL EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO SATOKO-CHAN AND HAVE HER APOLOGIZE IN HER PARENTS' PLACE.

WILL THAT SATISFY YOU?

RENA! WHY SHOULD SATOKO HAVE TO DO THAT?

JUST LISTEN.

HMPH.

IF YOU WOULD GO THAT FAR, THEN I MIGHT BE WILLING TO CONSIDER IT.

BUT ONCE SATOKO MAKES RESTITUTION...

...THEN WILL YOU MAKE RESTITUTION...

...FOR MAKING AN INNOCENT GIRL SUFFER?

YOU'RE NO ORDINARY OLD WOMAN.

RENA'S RIGHT.

YOU ARE THE HEAD OF THE SONOZAKIS, THE FIRST OF THE THREE FAMILIES.

YOU HAVE ABSOLUTE INFLUENCE OVER THIS VILLAGE.

SATOKO IS MY FRIEND.

SHE'S LIKE FAMILY TO ME.

IF YOU SAY YOU HATE THE HOJO FAMILY, THEN THE VILLAGERS ARE AFRAID TO DEFY YOU.

THEY'LL ALL STAY AWAY FROM SATOKO.

SO IF SATOKO IS GOING TO SUFFER BECAUSE OF YOU ...

...THEN I HAVE TO FIGHT YOU.

DON'T EVEN TRY TO TELL ME YOU DON'T KNOW THAT.

THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO PROTECT YOUR FRIENDS !!!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

THAT'S BIG TALK FROM A CITY BOY.

HMM?

KEI-ICHI-KUN...

...MY DAUGHTERS HAVE TOLD ME A LOT ABOUT YOU, BUT I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE SO ADMIRABLY OUTSPOKEN.

AND YOU'RE LOGICAL TOO.

YOU'VE GOT GUTS, KID.

REGARD-LESS OF HER PARENTS' ACTIONS, THE GIRL HAS DONE NOTHING WRONG.

YOU'RE RIGHT. WE *ARE* RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR FRIEND'S TROUBLES.

TH-THANK YOU, SIR.

IS, THAT MION'S DAD?

...HUH?

WE THINK THAT THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH HELPING THEM OUT.

YES.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, SONO-ZAKIS?

AH...

BAT-CHA!

WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO ORDER THE VILLAGE TO STOP THE OSTRACISM?

...SATOKO-CHAN HAS PERSISTED ADMIRABLY ON HER OWN FOR A LONG TIME NOW.

SU (SSK)

ORYOU-SAN...

PLEASE HELP HER!

SATOKO IS FAMILY TO ME! SHE'S MY LITTLE SISTER!

I WANT TO FIGHT FOR MY FRIENDS IN HINAMI-ZAWA, JUST LIKE YOU DID!

ME TOO!

AND THEN WHAT?

...SO I NOD MY HEAD.

AND THEN WE CAN TAKE THE WHOLE VILLAGE TO MAKE AN APPEAL!

...IF WE CAN GET THE VILLAGE COUNCIL BEHIND US, THEN THE CHILD CONSULTA-TION CENTER WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO HEAR WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY.

TO SAVE SATOKO...

ORYOU-SAN...

SU (SGK)

...PLEASE GIVE US THE STRENGTH OF THE SONO-ZAKIS.

...I'M ASKING YOU ONE MORE TIME.

PLEASE, ORYOU-SAN.

...UNDER-STANDS ABOUT SATOKO.

EVERY-ONE...

NOW ALL WE NEED IS YOU.

SAY YOU'LL FORGIVE SATOKO! ORYOU-SAN!!

PLEASE... SAY YOU'LL FORGIVE THE HOJOS.

I CAN'T DO THAT.

I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT THE LITTLE HOJO BRAT.

GIRI (GRIT)

...THAT SET-TLES IT.

... THEN ...

...
STRANGLE THIS OLD BATTLE-AX!!

I'M GOING TO...

MION!

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO TAKE OVER THE FAMILY AND SUP-PORT MY CAUSE!

KEI-CHAN!

KEI-ICHI!

STOP!

KEI
CHI!!

!?

KEI
—

...K...

KEIICHI!!

GA (GRAB)

I'M GOING TO...

GUOOOOO WHOOOOM

おお!?

...STRANGLE THIS OLD BATTLE-AX!!

CHAPTER 15: ORYOU'S POWER

GET THIS WHIPPER-SNAPPER OUT OF MY SIGHT!!

RRH, I'VE HAD ENOUGH A YER NONSENSE!

KEIICHI-KUN...

...BABA-SAMA SAYS YOUR AUDIENCE WITH HER HAS ENDED.

SO I HAVE TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE FOR TODAY.

!?

W-WAIT, PLEASE!

PLEASE CALM DOWN, MAE-BARA-SAN.

HEY, LET GO OF ME! MION!

KEI-CHAN, THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY! OKAY?

IT CAN'T BE OVER NOW! I WON'T ACCEPT IT!

KEIICHI-KUN.

.....

YOU NEED TO LEARN THAT ONE RULE OF BEING AN ADULT IS THAT SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO GIVE UP AND TRY AGAIN.

I DON'T GET IT!

"RULE OF BEING AN ADULT," MY ASS!

WE WEREN'T DONE TALKING!

OR-YOU-SAN!

GIRI (GRIT)

SATOKO...

WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN YOUR ANSWER YET!

IF WE DON'T HELP SATOKO SOON, SHE'LL FALL APART!

DAMMIT!

WHY WON'T YOU UNDER-STAND THAT!?

...DAM-MIT.

DAM-MIT!
GA (WHACK)
BOCHAN (SPLISH)
WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO HOME WHEN WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN HER ANSWER YET!?
YOU SAID EVERY-THING YOU NEEDED TO SAY, KEIICHI-KUN.
BUT SHE NEEDS TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT.

FUU (SIGH)

I HOPE MOM AND OJII-CHAN CAN CALM ONI-BABA'S WRATH...

ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS HAVE FAITH IN ORYOU AND WAIT, SIR.

SORRY TO KEEP YOU ALL WAITING.

JARI (CRUNCH)

...AND AKANE-SAN.

CHIEF KIMIYOSHI...

YES, ABOUT THAT.

OJII-CHAN. IS ONI-BABA STILL MAD?

ORYOU-SAN GAVE THE OKAY.

SHE SAYS YOU CAN HAVE IT YOUR WAY, KEIICHI-KUN.

...EH?

...NO WAY.

WH... WHY!?

BUT SHE WAS REALLY MAD!

YEAH, MOM. IS THIS FOR REAL?

OF COURSE IT IS.

ONIBABA-SAMA HAS GIVEN THE HINAMIZAWA UNITED VILLAGE COUNCIL PERMISSION TO SUPPORT KEIICHI-KUN'S CAUSE.

...MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU HAD HER BY THE THROAT.

NO, THEY STOPPED ME BEFORE I COULD GET TO HER.

I NEVER GRABBED HER THROAT.

HEH HEH HEH.

LISTEN, KEIICHI-KUN.

FOR HER TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION AND FORGIVE HER ENEMIES, SHE NEEDS SOME DRAMATIC STORY.

AND SO WE MADE ONE: "ONIBABA-SAMA WAS CHARMED BY YOUR MANLY WILLINGNESS TO FIGHT."

JARI (CRUNCH)

ALL THIS TIME, ONIBABA-SAMA HAS BEEN SAYING THAT THE HOJO FAMILY IS NEVER TO BE FOR-GIVEN.

SHE CAN'T JUST UP AND CHANGE THAT ATTITUDE ALL BECAUSE SOME LITTLE BOY ASKED HER NICELY.

I SEE...

ONIBABA-SAMA MUST HAVE REALLY LIKED YOU.

DEEP DOWN, ONIBABA-SAMA HAS BEEN BOTH-ERED BY THE WAY SATOKO-CHAN'S BEEN TREATED.

AND YOU SOLVED THAT PROBLEM, KEIICHI-KUN.

FLAG: ONI / ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE

BANNERS: STOP THE HINAMIZAWA DAM / ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE

YOU WON'T BE ALLOWED TO LOSE OR TO PUT ON A CLUMSY OFFENSIVE.

...AND PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF UNYIELDING SOLIDARITY THAT HINAMIZAWA HAS BUILT UP.

NOW YOU WILL HAVE TO SHOULDER THE BURDEN OF LEADING THE ONIGAFUCHI DEFENSE ALLIANCE...

BUT YOU KNOW, KEIICHI-KUN.

I AM!

ARE YOU READY FOR ALL THAT?

OH HO.

WITHOUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION. YOU'RE A REAL MAN!

EVEN I'M FALLING FOR YOU!

BASHI (WHAP)

!

NIKO (GRIN)

WITH YOU AT THE HELM, THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

AKANE-SAN.

MOM ...

STILL ...

...SATOKO-CHAN'S A LUCKY GIRL TO HAVE CAPTURED THE HEART OF A MAN LIKE YOU.

HUH?

OH, YOU DON'T?

ZUIII (LOOOOM)

ズィー

WHY DID YOU THINK THAT?

IN THAT CASE, KEIICHI-KUN...

M-MOM!

KEI-CHAN DOESN'T LIKE HER LIKE THAT!

AND YOU CAN START CALLING ME MOTHER!

...YOU CAN TAKE MION OR SHION! WHICHEVER ONE YOU LIKE!

!

YEAH!

KAAA (BLUUUSH)

カアア!!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MOM!?

YOU'RE ALL BRIGHT RED.

HEH HEH HEH.

WHAT'S WRONG?

DOKI (BADUM)

DOKI

DOGA (KONK)

SHUT UP!

ORYOU SAID YES.

BUT ...

...I'M SO GLAD, SIR.

YEAH.

I WAS WORRIED FOR A WHILE THERE.

NOW...

...WE CAN FIGHT THE CONSULTATION CENTER!!

AND THE NEXT DAY...

OKINO-MIYA

ZA (ZSH)

THIS WILL BE OUR FIFTH APPEAL.

KEI-CHAN.

...WILL HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL.

BUT STARTING TODAY, OUR AP-PEALS ...

IT'S ALMOST THE MOMENT OF TRUTH.

YEAH!

TODAY WE MAKE THE CON-SULTATION CENTER ACKNOWL-EDGE THAT SATOKO IS BEING ABUSED!

!!?

WOW ...!

THERE ARE PEOPLE FLOOD-ING THE STREETS!

JUST HOW MANY ARE THERE !?

DON'T LET HER UNCLE HAVE HER! HELP HER!

LISTEN TO US!

OOOOO (AAAAAH)

OOOOO (WHOOOAAA)

HELP HER NOW!

SAVE SAIOKO-CHAN!

SIGNS: "HELP HER NOW! / DEAL WITH THE SITUATION IMMEDIATELY! / TAKE HER INTO EMERGENCY CUSTODY!"

EVERYTHING WE DID BEFORE WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO THIS.

OOOO (RAAAAH)

JUST HOW MANY PEOPLE DID YOU TALK TO!?

I COULDN'T SAY.

KEIICHI-KUN!

OH! CHIEF!

NO, A CROWD THIS SIZE—THEY MUST HAVE MOBILIZED OKINOMIYA TOO!

AND THAT DREW THIS MANY PEOPLE FROM HINAMI-ZAWA?

WE JUST USED THE VILLAGE COUNCIL'S CONTACT NETWORK TO ANNOUNCE AN EMERGENCY ASSEMBLY.

KIIIIN (SCREEE)

We apologize to those of you living in the neighborhood who are inconvenienced by our assembly!

Testing, testing. This is the Hinamizawa United Village Council.

AAA-H!

BURORORORO (VRRROOOM)

!!

THAT'S... A PROPAGANDA TRUCK!!

OOH!

IT'S YOUR SECRET WEAPON—THE DEMON'S MEGA-PHONE!

OF COURSE, I HAVE MY MEGA-PHONE TOO.

WAAA

WAAA (RAAAH)

SAVE OUR VIL-LAG-ER!

HINA-MIZAWA DEMANDS THAT YOU RESCUE SATOKO HOJO!

WHOA ...

IT'S THE POWER OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL, SIR!

YEAH!

NOW THEY'RE SURE TO HEAR OUR APPEALS !!

NOW, KEIICHI-KUN. SHALL WE?

MAE-BARA-SAN!

YES, SIR!

HELLO, HELLO.

OOISHI-SAN!

PERFECT TIMING!

WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO GO INSIDE ...

I'M SORRY. I HAVE SOMETHING URGENT TO TELL YOU.

EH?

WHAT IS IT?

MAE-BARA-SAN...

...ON BEHALF OF THE POLICE FORCE, I ORDER YOU...

...TO BREAK UP THIS ASSEMBLY.

WH ...

... WHY ...?

...HUH?

...YOU ARE ON GOVERNMENT PROPERTY.

PRIVATE CITIZENS ARE PROHIBITED FROM USING IT FOR THEIR OWN SPECIFIC PURPOSES.

YOU SEE ...

IF THE CHIEF OF THE CENTER DETERMINES A GATHERING TO BE AN OBSTRUCTION OF CENTER OPERATIONS, HE HAS THE RIGHT TO ORDER THOSE INVOLVED TO VACATE THE PREMISES.

AND THE SHISHIBONE CHILD CONSULTATION CENTER HAS ISSUED AN ENFORCEMENT ORDER.

...THEY MUST *REALLY* HATE YOU, MAEBARA-SAN.

WELL...

YES.

SO YOU'RE SAYING THEY ASKED YOU TO DO THIS.

A...

AR-REST?

!

INCIDENTALLY, IF YOU TRY TO DO ANYTHING TO US, THEN THE LAW ALLOWS US TO ARREST YOU FOR OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE.

...AND SUBMIT A NOTICE OF ASSEMBLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SECURITY.

IF YOU DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN, THEN DISBAND FOR NOW...

IF THEY'RE GOING TO REJECT US SO OPENLY, THEN WE'LL NEED TO DEVELOP A MORE PERSISTENT STRATEGY...

OJII-CHAN!

CAN'T THE DEFENSE ALLIANCE DO SOME-THING?

...DAM-MIT.

YOU MEAN WE HAVE TO DRAG THINGS OUT!?

...AND NOW WE CAN'T SHOW THEM ANY OF THAT EFFORT.

...WE EVEN GOT THE VILLAGE COUNCIL TO HELP...

WE GOT ALL THESE PEOPLE TOGETH-ER...

WE HAVE TO SAVE SATOKO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

BUT NOW...

...WE CAN'T EVEN GET OUR FOOT IN THE DOOR!?

MAE-BARA-SAN...

...KEI-ICHI...

EH?

PIKU (TWITCH)

...YOU'LL BREAK THROUGH THIS MEASLY BARRIER IN NO TIME FLAT.

DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?

NOTHING WORTH REPEAT-ING.

NN FU FU.

BURORORORO (VRRROOOM)

TOOO...

ブロロロロ

BURORURU

KIKIII (SCREEE)

ガシャ

GACHA GACHAK

.....?

WHAT ARE THOSE CARS DOING HERE?

IS KEIICHI MAEBARA-KUN HERE!?

DON (DUN)

I'M KEIICHI MAEBARA.

Y... YAKU-ZA...?

RELAX.

WE'RE ON YOUR SIDE.

IT CAN'T BE...

EH?

UNCLE'S HERE?

EH? BUT ...

COME ON, KEI-ICHI-KUN. YOU'RE THE REPRESEN-TATIVE.

WE'RE OFF TO THE CON-SULTATION CENTER!

GUI (TUG)

NOW, NOW. STOP RIGHT THERE.

CURRENTLY NO PETITIONERS ARE ALLOWED INSIDE THE CENTER. CITY ORDINANCE.

SO THE CHIEF AT THE OKINOMIYA PRECINCT ORDERED US OUT HERE.

WELL, WE GOT A REQUEST FROM THE CENTER.

WHO ORDERED YOU HERE ?

THE OKINOMIYA PRECINCT?

PIKU (TWITCH)

ピク

AS AN ASSEMBLY-MAN, I'M GOING TO GIVE THAT CHIEF OF YOURS A PIECE OF MY MIND !!

KA (FLASH)

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA!? HOW CAN THE POLICE INTERFERE WITH A CITIZEN'S APPEAL !?

ASSEM-BLYMAN? HE'S ON THE PRE-FECTURAL ASSEM-BLY?

!!

HELLO, I AM SONOZAKI, DEFENSE ATTORNEY.

BUT THE LAW SAYS ...

DON COUND

THE HINAMIZAWA UNITED VILLAGE COUNCIL IS A GOODWILL CIVILIAN ORGANIZATION FORMED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF SHISHIBONE'S DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT. ERGO, MR. MAE-BARA HAS BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED AS LAWFUL REPRESENTATIVE.

MR. MAEBARA HAS BEEN DELEGATED HEAD OF THE PETITIONER TEAM BY THE HINAMIZAWA UNITED VILLAGE COUNCIL. HERE IS THE APPROPRIATE PAPERWORK.

THUS, THE ORDERS SUBMITTED BY THE CHIEF OF THE CHILD CONSULTA-TION CENTER ARE CLEARLY NULL AND VOID!!

IT IS ALSO IN OPPOSITION TO THE CITY'S PUBLIC SERVICE REGULA-TIONS.

REFUSING TO HEAR HIS APPEAL IS A BLATANT ABUSE OF AUTHORITY.

DO THE POLICE STILL INTEND TO COOPERATE WITH THE CENTER?

GO

GO

GO

GO

GO

GO CRUMBLE

...OOISHI-SAN.

コロ
KORO (FLOP)

OH, I SEE.

I APOL-OGIZE.

!!

WOW ...

HMPH! YOU SHOULD'VE GOTTEN OUT OF OUR WAY IN THE FIRST PLACE!

SU (SSK)

PLEASE, EVERYONE. GO RIGHT ON IN.

SHE EVEN BROUGHT *THEM* IN.

YES.

...IS THE POWER OF THE SONO-ZAKIS.

THIS ...

YOU HAVE THE FULL AND GREATEST SUPPORT ...

...OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY.

AND WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES.

HA HA.

SHISHI-BONE CITY HALL

MAYOR'S OFFICE

I HOPE FOR THE CHILD CONSULTATION CENTER'S WHOLE-HEARTED COOPERATION WITH THIS APPEAL.

THAT'S RIGHT.

THANK YOU.

YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT HELP, MR. MAYOR.

THE CENTER HAS BEEN DEALT WITH.

BUT WHAT A SURPRISE.

HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU PAID ME A PERSONAL VISIT?

SONO-ZAKI-SAN.

I HAD A FAVOR TO ASK.

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE RUDE NOT TO SPEAK TO YOU IN PERSON.

IN-DEED.

TO THINK HE WOULD CREATE THIS ENTIRE MOVEMENT TO SAVE HIS FRIEND FROM CHILD ABUSE.

STILL, YOU DON'T OFTEN SEE SUCH ADMIRABLE YOUNG PEOPLE THESE DAYS.

WITH YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE HIM AROUND, I KNOW THAT WHEN MY TIME COMES ...

...I CAN LEAVE HINAMIZAWA IN PEACE.

AKANE.

TAKE GOOD CARE OF KEIICHI.

DO YOU STILL HOLD IT AGAINST ME THAT I DIDN'T GIVE YOU ANY GRANDSONS?

YOU REALLY LIKE HIM.

INSIDE THE CENTER

UM ...

HOW CAN I HELP YOU TODAY?

WE'RE HERE TO ASK YOU TO TAKE SATOKO HOJO INTO IMMEDIATE CUSTODY.

LET US SEE THE CENTER CHIEF!

AFTER GETTING ORYOU-SAN'S HELP ...

...WE'VE COME TO THE CHILD CONSULTATION CENTER TO MAKE OUR FIFTH APPEAL WITH THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY.

LET US SEE THE CENTER CHIEF!

WE'RE HERE TO ASK YOU TO TAKE SATOKO HOJO INTO IMMEDIATE CUSTODY.

GACHA (CLACK)
CHIEF!
THE MAYOR TOLD ME EVERY-THING.

YOU HAVE MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES.
WE WILL DEAL WITH THE SITUATION IMMEDIATELY.

WE DID IT!!

YES!

CHIEF OFFICER, PLEASE CALL THE HOJO RESIDENCE.

YES, SIR!

NOW ALL WE NEED, SATOKO ...

...IS FOR YOU TO ASK FOR HELP!!!

RRRR

RRRR...

CHAPTER 16: TRUE STRENGTH

MIIIN
(BUZZZZ)

MIN

MIN

MIN

MIN

MIN

GISHI (CREAK)

HAA (HUFF)

HAA

HAA

SU (SSH)

HAA

HAA

SATOKO, WAKE UP!

I SAID WAKE UP, DAMMIT!

YUSA (SHAKE)

YUSA

HEY.

HAA

HAA

TCH.

NOW SHE *REALLY* HAS A COLD?

WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS.

NO.

NIYA LEER

LIP

IT'S PERFECT.

SOO (SLIDE)

ISH

ISH

SOME KIND OF BOOBY TRAP ?

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT NOISE ?

TCH.

GATAN (CRASH)

BATA

BATA

BATA (STOMP)

STAY OUT OF NII-NII'S ROOM !!

HAA

HAA (HUFF)

STOP ...

GUGU (PULL)

SO PLEASE DON'T MESS IT UP!!

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THAT IN NII-NII'S ROOM!

I KNOW YOU'RE HIDING THE BANK-BOOK IN SATOSHI'S ROOM!

GASHI (CLAMP)

SHUT UP!

I NEED MONEY !!

IRA (IRK)

GA (WHACK)

SHUT YER MOUTH !!

.....!

ZUZAZAZA (SKID)

NOW THERE'LL BE ANOTHER BRUISE.

DAMMIT, I DID IT AGAIN.

NII-NIII! NII-NII!

WAAAH!

NII-NIII! NII-NII!

WAAAH!

RAAAUGH!

SHUT THE HELL UP AL-READY!!

DOKA (POW)

WHAT ARE YOU, A BROKEN RADIO!? SHUT UP!!

ARE YOU TOO STUPID TO KNOW WHAT "SHUT UP" MEANS!?

GO (WHOOSH)

WAAH!

WAAH!

YOU HAVE UNTIL I GET OFF THE PHONE TO REMEMBER WHERE THAT BANKBOOK IS.

DOSU

DOSU (STOMP)

TCH.

JIRIRIRIN

JIRIRIRIN

JIRIRIRIN

JIRIRIRIN (GRRRING)

IRA (IRIK)

HOW MANY TIMES DO I GOTTA TELL YOU, ME AND SATOKO ARE THE BEST OF FRIENDS!

YOU AGAIN !?

GACHA (CLICK)

HELLO?

I'm sorry to bother you.

This is the Shishi-bone Child Consul-tation Center.

Would it be all right if I come to your home for a visit?

I'm terribly sorry.

There is an ex-tremely urgent matter I would like to discuss with Satoko-san.

!

SHE'S GOT A COLD! YOU THINK SHE FEELS LIKE TALKIN'?

I'LL ANSWER YOUR QUES-TIONS FOR HER!

I SEE. THEN MAY I SPEAK WITH HER?

D-of course it's not all right. Satoko has a cold. I can't let anyone see her.

I-I AIN'T REFUSIN' ANYTHING!

THEN YOU REFUSE TO PUT SATOKO ON THE PHONE?

Then let me speak with Satoko-san, please.

DAMN, THEY'RE AGGRES-SIVE THIS TIME...

GJUUU (GRRRR)

MERI

MERI

MERI (RIP)

!!!!!

COULD YOU COME OVER HERE AND TALK TO THE MAN FROM THE CON-SULTATION CENTER?

DOSU (STOMP)

DOSU

HEY, SATOKO.

WHAT-EVER THEY SAY TO YOU...

...WE'RE A HAPPY FAMILY. UNDER-STAND?

...I PROMISE I'LL STOP TRYING TO GET INTO SATOSHI'S ROOM.

IF YOU DO A GOOD JOB ON THE PHONE ...

BIKU (WINCE)

FRIENDS AGAIN?

WHAD-DAYA SAY?

.....
...FRIENDS AGAIN.

Satoko-san, this is Harayama from the Child Consultation Center.

Are you having any problems living with Teppei-san?

THIS IS SATOKO.

...
Satoko-
san?

GO
(WHOOSH)
!

...THERE
AREN'T ANY
PROBLEMS.

WE'RE A
HAPPY
FAMILY.

THEN THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS ...?

I SEE.

SATO-KO...

...IF YOU DON'T ASK FOR HELP, THE CENTER CAN'T TAKE YOU INTO CUSTODY.

.....

SHE STILL WON'T ASK FOR HELP!

DAMMIT, SATO-KO!

HELLO, SATO-KO?

IT'S ME, KEIICHI. ARE YOU OKAY!?

...YES.

KEI-ICHI?

EXCUSE ME.

And another thing. No one's going to ostracize you any-more!

...IF YOU ASK THEM TO.

LISTEN TO ME.

WE TALKED TO THE CENTER, AND THEY AGREED TO TAKE YOU INTO CUSTODY...

EVEN ORYOU-SAN IS USING THE POWER OF THE SONOZAKIS TO TRY AND SAVE YOU, SATOKO!

MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED PEOPLE FROM HINAMIZAWA AND OKINOMIYA ARE STANDING OUTSIDE THE CONSULTATION CENTER TO HELP YOU.

HEH HEH.

AWESOME, RIGHT?

IT'S TOO BAD YOU CAN'T SEE IT!

.....

SU (SS)

KEIICHI.

HEY! ANSWER ME!

SATOKO ?

LET ME TALK TO HER, SIR.

YEAH.

.....

SATOKO ?

IT'S RIKA.

KEIICHI AND THE OTHERS HAVE PUT AN END TO EVERYTHING, SIR.

HINAMIZAWA ISN'T YOUR ENEMY ANY-MORE.

.....

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT.

...I KNOW.

I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT EITHER.

RIKA?

WHEN TEPPEI TOOK YOU AWAY...

...I THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS ANOTHER HOPELESS, DEAD-END WORLD, AND I GAVE UP.

BUT ...

...KEIICHI SHOWED ME HOW TO TEAR APART THAT WORLD!

KEIICHI DIDN'T JUST SIT AND WAIT LIKE WE DID!

NO MATTER HOW BAD IT WAS, HE WOULDN'T GIVE UP!

HE STOOD UP AND FOUGHT HIS DES-TINY!

AND THAT'S HOW HE MADE A MIRACLE HAPPEN!

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO MAKE A MIRACLE!

TAKE OUR HANDS!

...I HAVE... TO GET STRONGER.

I...

...BUT ...

...I CAN'T TAKE THOSE HANDS.

YOU FEEL BAD FOR HIDING BEHIND SATOSHI WHILE YOUR AUNT ABUSED YOU.

YES, I KNOW.

EXACTLY.

YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO YOUR OLD, WEAK SELF.

THAT'S WHY YOU PUT UP WITH TEPPEI'S BULLYING, AND THAT'S WHY YOU REFUSE TO ASK FOR HELP.

YOU BELIEVE SATOSHI DISAPPEARED BECAUSE YOU WERE WEAK.

AND WHEN THAT MAKES ME STRONGER ...

...NII-NII WILL COME BACK TO ME.

...SATOKO...

...YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY EXPECT THAT WILL BRING SATOSHI BACK!

YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT TRUE STRENGTH !!!

.....

YOU'RE ONLY PUTTING UP WITH IT UNTIL SATOSHI COMES BACK TO BE YOUR SHIELD AGAIN.

BUT HOW IS THAT ANY DIFFERENT THAN BEFORE ?

YOU THINK THAT ENDURING THE ABUSE WILL MAKE YOU STRONG.

...didn't just sit cowering in a corner like you.

Sato-shi...

SATOSHI'S STRENGTH IS SO CLOSE TO YOU. HAVEN'T YOU REALIZED IT YET?

SATO-KO...

TO SAVE YOU!

EVEN THROUGH HIS FEAR, HE FOUGHT YOUR AUNT HEAD-ON!

—!

THAT IS REAL STRENGTH !!

THEN LOOK AT HIS HIDEOUS, TERRIFYING FACE.

IF YOU WANT TO ATONE FOR YOUR CRIME AGAINST SATOSHI ...

...Sa-toko ...

...Teppei is right behind you, isn't he?

...YES, HE'S THERE.

...THEN YOU NEED TO UNDER-STAND HOW BRAVE HE WAS ...

...TO STAND UP TO THE FEAR !!

SORO (SLOW)

BIKU (WINCE)

...EEK!

I'M SCARED ...

GACHI (CHATTER)

Are your teeth chattering?

I'M SCARED !!

ZOKU (CHILL)

Are the hairs rising on the back of your neck?

ZOKU

Are your knees knocking?

GATA

GATA

GATA (RATTLE)

Now do you understand?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT SATOSHI EXPECTED FROM YOU?

EVERY-THING YOU'RE FEELING RIGHT NOW...

DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE WANTED YOU TO LEARN FROM HIM!?

...IS WHAT SATOSHI FELT EVERY TIME HE PROTECTED YOU.

IF YOU DON'T ...

!!

...THEN YOU WILL NEVER BE STRONG !!

NNN? WHAT'S GOING ON?

THIS PHONE CALL'S TAKING AN AWFULLY LONG TIME.

SATOKO ...

...LET SATOSHI SEE HOW STRONG YOU'VE BECOME THIS PAST YEAR.

Now ...

RIKA...

...ARE YOU SAYING I SHOULD DISOBEY THIS MAN AND ASK FOR HELP?

KIN (THMM)

...AND LET IT LIVE IN YOUR HEART!

...TAKE SATO-SHI'S COUR-AGE ...

ZUKIN

ZUKIN (THROB)

ZUKIN

IF I ASK FOR HELP WITH HIM STANDING RIGHT BEHIND ME...

ZUKIN

ZUKIN

...HURT SO MUCH.

BUT THAT LAST KICK ALONE ...

MISHI (SQUEEZE)

KATA (SHUDDER)

KATA

KATA

...THAT'S RIGHT.

ZUKIN (STING)

!!

BUT HE PROTECTED ME EVERY TIME I CRIED.

HE WAS SCARED TOO.

NII-NII FELT THIS SAME FEAR.

AND YET...THE OLD ME...

...DID NOTHING BUT HIDE BEHIND HIM...!

...I'M WATCHING YOUR COURAGE.

...Sato-ko...

...I'm going to give the receiver back to the man from the center.

I WANT YOU TO TELL HIM IN YOUR OWN WORDS.

...Sa-toko...

EH?

RIKA...

Hello, it's me again.

Satoko-san, I'm going to ask you one more time.

Are you having any problems living with Teppei-san?

HEY.

WELL?

DOKUN

DOKU

DOKUN

...
TOKO.

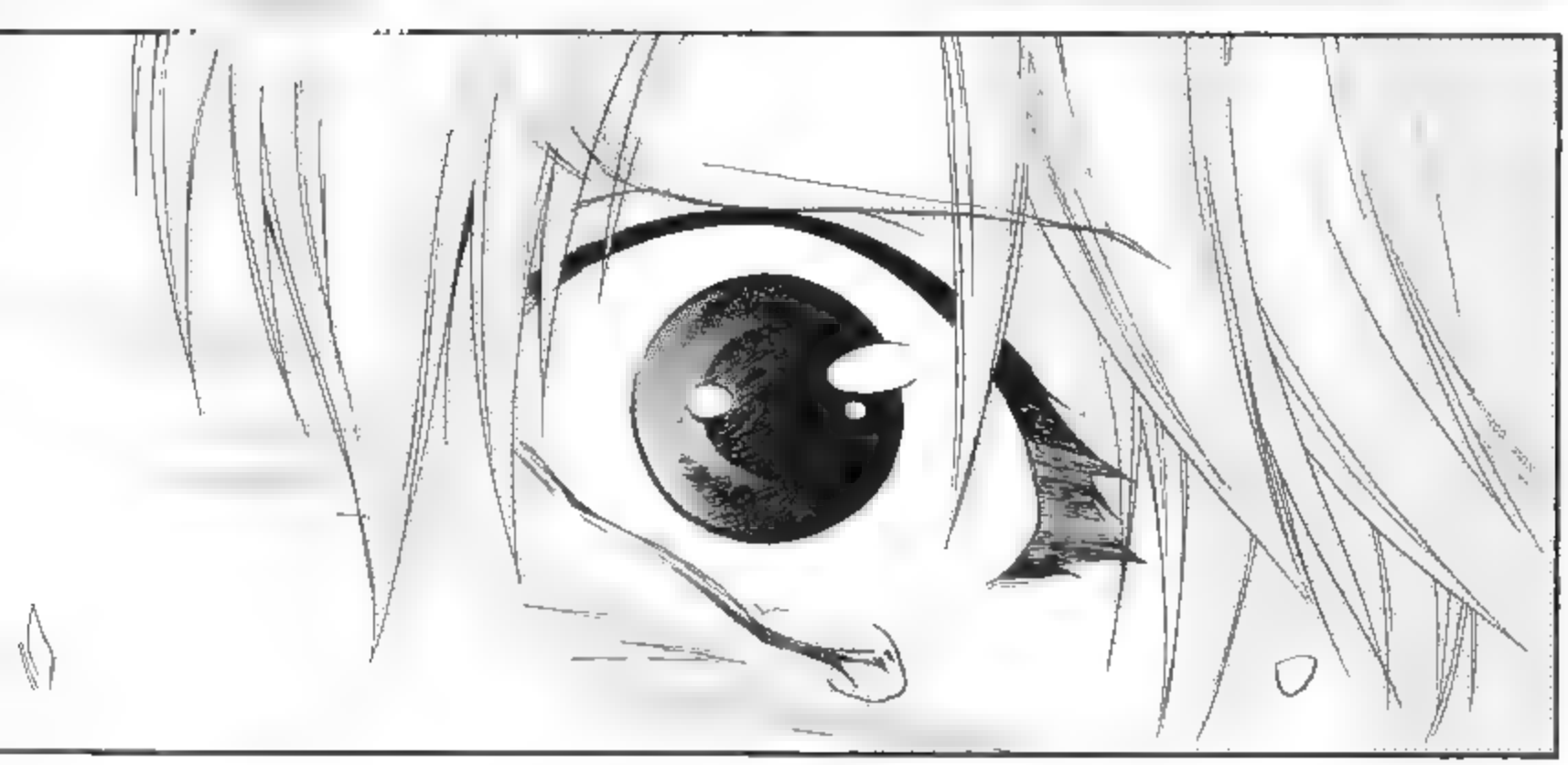
AREN'T YOU DONE YET?

DOKUN (THUMP)

BIKU (WINCE)

SATOKO.

BE BRAVE.



...ME.

I'M SORRY?

...SAY THAT ONE MORE TIME?

WOULD YOU PLEASE ...

PLEASE ...

PLEASE
...

...
HELP
ME
!!

(HOOK IN)

ゴゴゴ…

ドカ

ガバッ

ユラ…

ユラユラ

ズルズル

ズルズル

ズルズル

YOU BETRAYED ME !!!

YOU LITTLE BITCH !!!

OO (WHOOM)

KI (GLARE)

I HATE YOU!

BA (BAM)

10年

I WANT YOU TO GET OUT!!

THIS HOUSE BELONGS TO ME AND NII-NII!

WAAAH!

DA (STAMP)

DA

DA

DA

BUCHI (SNAP)

YOU LITTLE ...!

PIECE OF...

BA (WHAM)

—!

GIRI

GIRI (STRAIN)

GNH!

HNGH!

YOU WANNA LOSE THOSE FRONT TEETH OF YOURS!?

GOOOO (WHOOOSH)

ドドド

WHAT THE —!?

TEPPEI HOJO! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

COME QUIETLY !!

DAMMIT!

YOU WERE WAITING OUT-SIDE THE HOUSE?

YOU'RE OKAY NOW.

KIKIII (SCREE)

BURORO (VROOM)

SATOKO!!

BAN (BAM)

AH...

MY FRIENDS ...

OH, THIS? IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN THIS TO GET ME DOWN.

HO-HO-HO.

HOW COULD HE DO THAT TO YOU?

KYU (CLENCH)

RIKA.

DID YOU SEE ME?

I...
...CAN REALLY DO IT WHEN I PUT MY MIND TO IT.

I SAW JUST HOW BRAVE YOU CAN BE.

YES.

YOU FOUGHT ...

...AND YOU WON.

おぁぁぁ
WAAAH!
うぁぁぁ
UWAAAAH!
RIKA
...
PORO
PORO
PORO

...FINAL-
LY...

WE...

...BEAT
OUR
DESTINY
!!!

DON

DON (BOOM)

FURUDE SHRINE

SIGNS: CANDIED FRUIT / YAKISOBA

IT'S THE DAY OF THE COTTON DRIFTING...

...HINA-MIZAWA'S BIGGEST FESTIVAL.

PI-HYARA (TWEET-TWEET)

SIGNS: TAKOYAKI / IKAYAKI

WAI (CHATTER)

WAI

500

DON

DON

DON

CHAPTER 17: ON THE NIGHT OF
THE COTTON-DRIFTING

WE'RE DOING IT AGAIN THIS YEAR!

OUR COTTON DRIFTING FREE-FOR-ALL!

SIGN: TAKOYAKI

YEAH!

BAKU (CHOMP) BAKU

FIRST OFF, OUR TAKOYAKI-EATING CONTEST!

I WON'T LET ANY-ONE BEAT ME!

ME NEITHER!

AH HA HA!

KEIICHI-KUN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?

H-HOT!

THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR RUSHING!

BOX: TAKO

AFTER HER UNCLE TOOK HER AWAY, WE ALL BANDED TOGETHER ...

...AND FOUGHT ...

...TO SAVE SA-TOKO.

IT'S BEEN A LONG...

...LONG WEEK.

BUT YESTER-DAY, WE FINALLY BEAT OUR FATE!

I THOUGHT THIS WORLD WAS DESTINED TO BE ANOTHER DEAD END.

SIGNS: OKONOMIYAKI / CANDIED FRUIT

...HOW ARE YOU DOING?

SATOKO-CHAN...

WE REALLY ARE SORRY FOR HOW WE'VE TREATED YOU.

EH ...?

UM...

NEXT TIME ANYTHING HAPPENS, YOU CAN COME STRAIGHT TO US, OKAY?

SIGNS: CANDIED FRUIT

YOU'RE A PART OF THE VILLAGE TOO, AFTER ALL.

!

SATOKO ...

...TH...

GU (CLENCH)

.....

...THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH...

SIGNS: TAKOYAKI / IKAYAKI

SIGN: ICE

I HEARD ABOUT YOU.

HEY, YOU THE MAEBARA BOY?

SIGN: HIROSHIMA-STYLE OKONOMIYAKI

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU AND ORYOU-BAASAN GOING AT IT WITH JAPANESE SWORDS UNTIL YOU CONVINCED HER TO JOIN YOUR CAUSE?

TH-THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENED! NOTHING THAT SERI-OUS...

!

LEADING EVERY-BODY AND NEGOTIATING WITH THE GOVERN-MENT!

がし!

GASHI! (CLAMP!)

MAN, YOU REALLY ARE SOMETHING ELSE!

WOW, KEIICHI-KUN, YOU'RE SO POPULAR!

HOW MANY CANDIED APPLES WOULD YOU LIKE?

HERE YOU GO, MAEBARA-NIICHAN. ON THE HOUSE!

HEY, ISN'T THAT YOUR DAD, KEI-CHAN?

YOUR DAD'S PRETTY POPULAR TOO.

WAI

OH. YOU FLATTER ME. ; ;

WAI (CHATTER)

YOUR SON IS SUCH A FINE YOUNG MAN, MAEBARA-SAN.

SIGNS: ICE / HIROSHIMA-STYLE OKONOMIYAKI

DON

DON (BOOM)

DON (BOOM)

DON

DON

500

SIGN: IKAYAKI

SHAN

SHAN

SHAN
(SWISH)

SIGN: TAKOYAKI

HELLO THERE, EVERY-ONE.

DON

DON (BOOM)

SIGNS: CANDIED FRUIT / YAKISOBA

SIGN: IKAYAKI

YOU'RE ALL IN HIGH SPIRITS, I SEE.

...AKA-SAKA...

I'M HERE AS PROMISED. YOUR DANCE OFFERING WAS WONDERFUL.

HI, RIKA-CHAN.

EH?

PUI (HUFF)

YOU WEREN'T HERE WHEN WE NEEDED YOU, AKASAKA, SIR. YOU'RE USELESS.

WHEN AKASAKA CAME...

AS A MATTER OF FACT, THERE WAS A BIG TO-DO WHILE YOU WERE OFF AT THE HOT SPRINGS.

NA HA HA

DID I DO SOMETHING TO MAKE HER MAD?

SHUUN (SULK)

THEY'RE MADE BY EVERYONE TOGETHER.

MIRACLES AREN'T MADE BY ONE PERSON.

...I BELIEVED THAT BREAKING DOWN DESTINY INVOLVED THE POWER OF SOME HEROIC INDIVIDUAL.

BUT THAT WASN'T REALLY TRUE.

I KNOW.

HANYU ...

SIGNS: TAKOYAKI / IKAYAKI

THIS DAY CAME...

...BECAUSE WE ALL BANDED TOGETHER.

WE'VE NEVER HAD SO MUCH FUN AT THE COTTON DRIFTING BEFORE, SIR.

FUWAWA (FLOAT)

NIPA (BEAM)

JUST KIDDING, SIR.

I'M NOT MAD.

SO I WAS WRONG TO THINK THAT AKASAKA'S BEING HERE WOULD TEAR DOWN MY DESTINY.

WAI (CHATTER)

500

...WE COULDN'T HAVE MADE THIS MIRACLE HAPPEN.

IF EVEN ONE PERSON HAD GIVEN UP...

THAT'S RIGHT.

HANYU...

RIKA?

...LEARNED HOW TO FIGHT AGAINST DESTINY.

...I'VE FINALLY ...

MY DESTINY IS TO DIE, BUT I'M GOING TO STAND AGAINST IT.

FIRST, I'LL ALTER THE UNCHANGING DESTINY THAT REQUIRES THOSE TWO TO DIE ON THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING!

JARI (CRUNCH)

MY, MY, YOU SEEM TO BE ENJOYING YOUR-SELVES.

EH?

I WILL NOT BOW DOWN TO DESTINY AGAIN.

GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE.

NOT AGAIN ...!

SARA (RSTL)

SARA

R-RIGHT.

YOU TOLD US THAT OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE WOULD CLAIM TAKANO-SAN AND ME TONIGHT.

BUT WHY WOULD WE HAVE TO DIE?

THAT I DON'T KNOW.

BUT YOU, TOMITAKE, WILL SCRATCH OUT YOUR THROAT...

...AND YOU, TAKANO, WILL BE BURNED TO DEATH SOMEWHERE DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS.

SCRATCH OUT MY THROAT...?

KOKUN (NOD)

YOU MEAN THE LAST STAGES OF A LEVEL FIVE INFECTION?

I'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

MUN (FLEX)

I'VE BEEN INOCULATING MYSELF AGAINST THAT.

AND I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT I KEEP MYSELF FIT.

YOU WILL BE ATTACKED TONIGHT, MOST LIKELY WHEN YOU TWO ARE ALONE TOGETH-ER.

...AS THE PRIESTESS OF OYASHIRO-SAMA, I KNOW WITH CERTAINTY, SIR.

ZAAA (ZSHH)

KUSU KUSU (GIGGLE)

IF I'M IN TROUBLE, THEN JIROU-SAN WILL PROTECT ME.

THAT'S RIGHT.

SO YOU NEED TO MAKE SURE NOT TO GO OFF BY YOUR-SELVES TONIGHT, SIRS!!

RIKA-CHAN...

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE JEALOUS OF US?

YOU'RE A LITTLE YOUNG FOR THAT.

KUSU (GIGGLE)

KUSU

くすくす

WELL, WE'LL BE CAREFUL.

SEE YOU LATER.

I'LL FRUSTRATE DESTINY IN WHATEVER LITTLE WAY I CAN!

GU CLENCH

THEN I'LL WARN SOMEONE ELSE TOO.

...IT DIDN'T WORK.

NOTHING ELSE I SAY CAN GET THEM TO BELIEVE ME.

BUT WHO SHOULD I WARN?

IRIE?

NO, HE'S JUST A RESEARCHER.

HE CAN'T STOP TOMITAKE'S OR TAKANO'S DEATHS.

HA (GASP)

...AH!

THEN WHO?

WHO CAN I TELL THAT WILL BE ABLE TO STOP THE CURSE?

WHERE WERE YOU!?

KUWA (RAWR)

WHO DID YOU HEAR SAY THAT!?

...I SEE...

I JUST HAPPENED TO OVERHEAR IT IN THE CROWD, SIR. I DON'T KNOW.

...I THINK THEY SAID THE BEST PLACE TO ATTACK THEM WOULD BE ON THE ROAD, FROM HINAMIZAWA TO OKINOMIYA, SIR...

OOISHI...

IT DOES MAKE SENSE FOR THEM TO BE THE VICTIMS OF THE FIFTH YEAR'S CURSE.

BUT TOMITAKE-SAN IS AN OUTSIDER, AND WITH TAKANO-SAN, THAT MAKES TWO.

BUTSU

BUTSU (MURMUR)

CAN YOU HAVE POLICE STAND WATCH LIKE YOU DID AT SATOKO'S HOUSE YESTERDAY?

KOKU (NOD)

ALL RIGHT, IT COULDN'T HURT.

I'LL HAVE A CAR KEEP AN EYE ON THEM.

THANK YOU, SIR.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO—NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE ME.

...OOISHI...

NIKO (SMILE)

IT'S THE POLICE'S JOB TO TAKE THESE THINGS SERIOUSLY.

IF I FAILED TO STOP A MURDER BECAUSE I IGNORED A PIECE OF INFORMATION ...

... NOTHING WOULD MAKE ME DESPISE MYSELF MORE.

WELL, THEN.

TA (TEP)
TA
TA
WE LOOKED EVERY-WHERE FOR YOU!
RIKA-CHAAAN!
NOW...WHO ELSE CAN I TALK TO?
I CAN TALK TO MY FRIENDS.
I'M SORRY, SIR.
THAT'S RIGHT.
STOP THINKING "IT'S HOPE-LESS ANY-WAY" AND TALK TO THEM!

TOMITAKE-SAN AND TAKANO-SAN ARE GOING TO BE MURDERED !?

THE SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS DEATHS IN HINAMIZAWA.

ALSO KNOWN AS OYA-SHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE.

IT'S TRUE THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO BE ON GUARD ...

...TO-NIGHT ESPE-CIALLY.

I DON'T THINK IT WILL BE HARD TO TELL WHEN SOMEONE SUSPICIOUS SHOWS UP.

BUT WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT IT?

FRANKLY, NONE OF US WANT IT TO GO ON.

ALL IT DOES IS GIVE THE VILLAGE A BAD NAME.

WE CAN AT LEAST BE THEIR BODY-GUARDS UNTIL THE FESTIVAL IS OVER.

IT WILL BE HARD FOR ANYONE TO KILL THEM IF THERE ARE PEOPLE AROUND, AFTER ALL.

EVERY-ONE...

RIKA.

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP TOMITAKE AND TAKANO'S DEATHS, RIKA, SIR?

.....

I DON'T KNOW.

BUT EVEN IF I CAN'T, THEN I HAVE THE WILD DOGS PROTECTING ME.

SO EVEN IF THEY ARE KILLED, I WON'T BE COMPLETELY DEFENSELESS.

BE-SIDES ...

...I'VE MADE UP MY MIND THAT THIS TIME I WON'T GIVE UP UNTIL THE VERY END.

I'LL STRUGGLE AS LONG AS I CAN.

DO WHAT YOU WANT, RIKA, SIR.

HEY. WHY CAN'T YOU SHOW ANY OPTIMISM?

WE PROVED THAT WE CAN CHANGE DESTINY BY SAVING SATOKO...

SO WHY!?

... RIKA ...

...WHATEVER HAPPENS IS DESTINY.

SO I CAN'T BE OPTIMISTIC, SIR.

KACHIN (SNAP)

WHATEVER HAPPENS, PLEASE DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED, SIR.

ARE YOU SAYING IT'S STILL HOPE-LESS!?

.....!

UH...

UHH... UHH...

KURU (SPIN)

FORGET IT.

I THINK THAT I CAN TEAR DOWN MY DESTINY.

THAT THERE HAS TO BE AN EXIT.

GIRI GIRI

BUT I WONDER...

...IF HANYU ACTUALLY KNOWS...

AFTER THAT ...

...WE STAYED WITH TAKANO AND TOMITAKE UNTIL THE FESTIVAL ENDED.

THAT WAS EVERYTHING I COULD DO ON THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING.

BUT EVEN IF THERE ISN'T AN EXIT ...

...I WILL FOLLOW THROUGH ON THIS LINE OF THINKING.

BECAUSE THE STRENGTH OF BELIEVING WILL BE A SPEAR TO PIERCE THROUGH DESTINY.

...THAT WE'RE GOLDFISH.

AND THIS DESTINY IS A GOLDFISH BOWL THAT NEVER HAD ANY EXIT TO BEGIN WITH.

IS THAT WHY HANYU NEVER GETS HER HOPES UP?

Please tell me what happened on this night.
If I must describe it, I'd have to say it's like a box with a cat tucked inside.

Please tell me what happened on this night.
As long as it's inside, no one knows if the cat in the box is alive or dead.

Please tell me what happened on that night.
The cat in the box was dead.

Frederica Bernkastel

TON

TON (TAP)

TAKANO-SAN...

...PLEASE TELL DR. IRIE THAT HE SHOULD GIVE RIKA-CHAN A THOROUGH EXAMINATION.

?

-SU (SSK)

SAY, JIROU-SAN....

IF SHE'S THAT PERSISTENT, IT MIGHT BE A SIGN OF SOMETHING.

WE CAN'T HAVE ANYTHING HAPPENING TO RIKA-CHAN, AFTER ALL.

...I HAVE SOMETHING VERY SERIOUS TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.

SFX: KUSU (CHKICKLE) KUSU

YOU SEE, SHE SURPRISES ME.

TSU (TOUCH)

?

WOULD YOU DO ME THE FAVOR OF LISTENING?

WH-WHAT IS IT?

CHU CLICK

I THINK THAT GIRL MIGHT ACTUALLY HAVE SUPERNATURAL POWERS.

KUSU

KUSU

WHAT... DO YOU MEAN?

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, TAKANO-SAN?

AH HA HA

I...

...LOVE YOU, YOU KNOW.

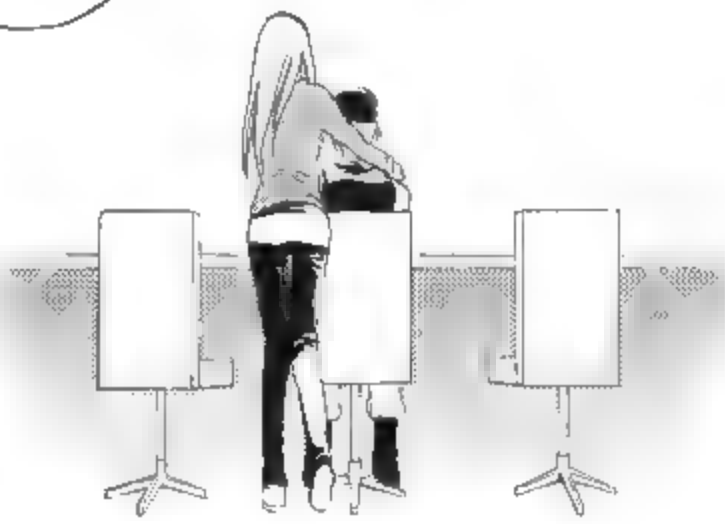
KUSU (GIGGLE)

くすっ

IT'S ALMOST TIME.

THE DAY MY DREAM COMES TRUE...

...IS ALMOST HERE.



NO...I-I REMEMBER.

...DO YOU NOT REMEMBER ANYTHING I TELL YOU IN BED?

OR...

きゅっ
KYU (SQUEEZE)

IT'S FINALLY HAPPENING.

くすくすくす
KUSU KUSU KUSU

KUSU SNICKER

AND WHEN IT DOES, THAT WILL BE THE DAY THAT MY DREAM COMES TRUE. THE DREAM I'VE HAD SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL.

くすくす

KUSU

KUSU

KUSU

KUSU

KUSU

...HUH?

THE DAY IS COMING WHEN OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE WILL BECOME REAL.

IT REALLY WAS A WARM RELATION-SHIP.

JIROU-SAN, WE NEVER DECEIVED EACH OTHER OR MISTRUSTED EACH OTHER.

AND THAT'S WHY I WANT TO BE WITH YOU FOR-EVER.

SO...

...WILL YOU BE THERE WITH ME WHEN THAT DAY COMES?

GATA (CLATTER)

YOU WOULDN'T ...

YOU DON'T MEAN ...!

KUSU (SNICKER)

YES.

I WOULD.

キッ
KI (GLARE)

I...I TRUSTED YOU!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

KUSU KUSU くす くす

I KNEW IT.

ガチャ
GACHA (KACHAK)

YOU DO LOVE YOUR WORK MORE THAN ME.

ZA ZA ZA (ZSW)

キィ
KII (CREAK)

ZA
(ZSH)

WH-WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?

HINA-MIZAWA SYNDROME IS LIKE A BOMB WITH A LIT FUSE.

YOU HAVE ORDERS FROM "TOKYO" TO DEFUSE THAT BOMB BEFORE IT GOES OFF.

BUT YOU SEE ...

...THERE ARE SOME IN "TOKYO" WHO WOULD LOVE TO SEE A BIG, FLASHY EXPLOSION.

PERO (CLICK)

!?

THAT'S RIDICULOUS!

WHAT COULD ANYONE POSSIBLY GAIN FROM THAT!?

GOOD QUESTION.

THIS DISEASE IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. IT WOULD BE TERRIBLE FOR THERE TO BE AN OUTBREAK OF IT.

THERE ARE POWERS, EVEN IN "TOKYO," THAT WANT TO SEE "TOKYO" FAIL.

A-AND YOU'VE SOLD YOUR-SELF OUT TO THOSE POWERS !?

KUSU (SNICKER) くすっ くすっ

NO. I'M DOING THIS FOR MY DREAM.

...KUHI

OKO-NOGI-KUN! YOU'VE DOUBLE-CROSSED ME TOO !?

KO (CLACK)

YOU'RE SO SLOW, JIROU-SAN.

THE WILD DOGS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN UNDER ME.

THIS CLINIC HAS BEEN UNDER MY CONTROL FROM THE VERY BE-GINNING.

...AND DR. IRIE.

THE ONLY ONES WHO DIDN'T KNOW THAT ARE YOU...

CRI TENSE

!!

JIRI

JIRI

JIRI

JIRI

GRR...

DAMMIT!

GIRI (GRIT)

DA (DASH)

カシャん
KASHAN
(CLATTER)

KUH! LET GO OF ME!

YOU HAVE SIX MEN ON TOP OF YOU, AND YOU'RE STILL GIVING THEM TROUBLE. WONDERFUL.

THAT'S MY JIROU-SAN.

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU WOULD JOIN MY SIDE?

...I'D HATE TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO YOU.

...YOU KNOW ...

SU (SŪ)
ス

ARE YOU ASK-ING ME TO TURN TRAI-TOR !?

YOU CAN NAME YOUR REWARD, OF COURSE.

IF YOU WANT ME ...

...I'LL SERVE YOU THE REST OF MY LIFE.

MY BODY WILL BE YOURS AND YOURS ALONE.

.....

.....NGH.

スゥ
KUSU

スゥ
KUSU
(SNICKER)

HEH.

I REFUSE!!

HA HA HA

WHAT'S IN THAT SYRINGE?

KATSUN (CLACK)

H173.

ONE INJECTION WILL ARTIFICIALLY INDUCE LEVEL FIVE SYMPTOMS.

SU (SSK)

YOU KNOW EXACTLY HOW TERRIFYING IT CAN BE, JIROU-SAN.

IMPOS-SIBLE ...

WE DESTROYED ALL THE...!

KUSU SNICKER

KUSU

JIROU-SAN...

...YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF THIS BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN PROTECTING YOURSELF AGAINST IT, IS THAT RIGHT?

THE MEDICINE I'VE BEEN GIVING YOU WASN'T THE PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.

BUT YOU SEE, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN.

YOU HAVE A HABIT OF LOOKING THE OTHER WAY WHEN YOU GET AN INJECTION, JIROU-SAN.

SU

A FINE SPECIMEN OF A HINAMIZAWA-SYNDROME CARRIER.

...BUT YOU'VE BEEN INFECTED, AND YOU'RE ALREADY AT LEVEL THREE.

YOU WEREN'T AWARE OF IT YET...

!

YOU NEED TO WATCH CAREFULLY EVERY TIME, SO YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT INJECTION YOU'RE GETTING.

YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T DO THAT.

LET ME GO! LET ME GO!!

DAM-MIT!

...!

BATA

JITA

IF YOU'RE LUCKY, YOU'LL GET TO DIE JUST THE WAY RIKA-CHAN PROPHESIED.

YOU CAN DIE BY YOUR OWN HAND...

...OR YOU CAN BECOME AN INVALID, WHOSE BRAIN IS OVERCOME BY PARANOIA AND HATRED.

WELL, JIROU-SAN?

DON'T DO THIS!

STOP...

WHICH WOULD YOU PREFER, I WONDER?

BUSU
(PRICK)

ØYUUU (SQUEEZE)

EE...

AH!

BIKU

BIKU CTWITCH

!!

AHH

ooo

あぁ

WAH!

AAAH!

あぁ

NOW.

XII (CREAK)

IT'S TIME TO BEGIN OPERATION: APOCA-LYPSE.

HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY MASSACRE ARC ❷ END

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ABOUT THE "MASSACRE ARC": TRUE POWER

ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR: RYUKISHI07

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE. I'M RYUKISHI07.

THE SATOKO RESCUE STORY IN THE "MASSACRE ARC" IS ACTUALLY THE GREATEST ANSWER TO AN IMPORTANT THEME IN ALL OF THE *HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY* STORIES. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT SATOKO'S FAMILY ENVIRONMENT IS TRAGIC AND COMPLICATED AND THAT IT'S TOO BIG OF A PROBLEM FOR ONE BOY LIKE KEIICHI TO HANDLE ALL BY HIMSELF. IN THE "CURSE KILLING ARC," KEIICHI TRIES TO SOLVE HER PROBLEM WITH A SHORTSIGHTED AND VIOLENT TACTIC—AMBUSHING TEPPEI. AND WHEN YOU READ THAT ARC, YOU READERS PROBABLY THOUGHT THAT WAS THE BEST SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

THE "MASSACRE ARC" IS THE STORY THAT OFFERS THE CORRECT ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM. KEIICHI, WHO IS JUST ONE HELPLESS BOY, USES THE POWER OF A LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE AND EVENTUALLY EVEN GETS THE MAYOR INVOLVED. WITH THAT POLITICAL POWER IN HAND, HE SOLVES THE PROBLEM. HOWEVER, THERE IS ONE POINT HERE THAT I WANT TO MAKE VERY CLEAR SO AS TO LEAVE NO MISUNDERSTANDING. I WANT YOU TO SEE THAT WHAT WAS RIGHT WAS FOR KEIICHI TO CONSULT ALL THOSE PEOPLE—HE DIDN'T SOLVE THE PROBLEM BY GOING TO SPECIFIC PEOPLE WHO ALREADY HAD POLITICAL POWER AND AUTHORITY.

IT'S TRUE THAT IN THE STORY ORYOU TALKS DIRECTLY TO THE MAYOR, AND THE RESULT IS THAT THE CHILD CONSULTATION CENTER INTERVENES AND THE PROBLEM IS SOLVED. THAT MIGHT LEAD YOU TO BELIEVE THAT ORYOU WAS THE ONLY REAL HELP IN REACHING THE SOLUTION AND THAT KEIICHI ONLY NEEDED TO GO TO HER. IN FACT, THE WORLD IS OVERFLOWING WITH STORIES WHERE PEOPLE SOLVE PROBLEMS BY USING THEIR CONNECTIONS TO PEOPLE WITH POWER, AND IT MAKES SENSE THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO THINK THAT'S HOW YOU SOLVE PROBLEMS. AND ORYOU REALLY DID HAVE ENOUGH INFLUENCE THAT SHE COULD HAVE SOLVED THE PROBLEM ON HER OWN. BUT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE VILLAGE COUNCIL AGREE TO JOIN THE CAUSE BEFORE ORYOU MADE ANY MOVE. AND TO GET THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL, THE SUPPORT OF ALL THE ADULTS OF THE VILLAGE WAS INDISPENSABLE. IN OTHER WORDS, ORYOU REPRESENTED THE WHOLE VILLAGE WHEN TALKING TO THE MAYOR. THE PROBLEM WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SOLVED IF LEFT TO HER INFLUENCE ALONE.

IT'S THE SAME IN REAL LIFE. REALITY ISN'T SO KIND AS TO LET YOU SOLVE EVERY PROBLEM JUST BY TALKING TO AN INFLUENTIAL POLITICIAN AND MAKING CONNECTIONS. IT'S ONLY AFTER YOU GAIN THE SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING OF MANY PEOPLE THAT THEIR SUPPORT TRANSFORMS INTO POLITICAL POWER AND THE PROBLEM IS RESOLVED THROUGH POLITICAL MEANS. IF YOU IGNORE THAT PROCESS AND TRY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS POLITICALLY WITHOUT PUBLIC CONSENT, THEN THAT'S NO DIFFERENT FROM RESORTING TO VIOLENCE WITHOUT AUTHORITY. WHAT'S IMPORTANT IN THIS STORY IS THAT KEIICHI ASKED FOR HELP FROM A LOT OF PEOPLE AND WAS ABLE TO GET SUPPORT FROM ALL OF THEM.

WHEN PEOPLE COME TOGETHER, THEN PEOPLE WITH ALL KINDS OF ABILITIES WILL JOIN YOUR CAUSE. THEIR VARIOUS SKILLS WILL BLEND TOGETHER TO BECOME AN EVEN GREATER POWER, AND THEN PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED PEACEFULLY AND IN THE CORRECT MANNER. FOR THE PURPOSES OF MOVING THE STORY ALONG, ALL OF THAT POWER CULMINATED IN THE ONE CHARACTER OF ORYOU SONOZAKI, BUT I SINCERELY HOPE THAT WILL NOT GIVE YOU READERS THE WRONG IDEA.

TRUE POWER IS BASED ON THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE. IF YOU TRY TO IGNORE THAT, IT'S THE SAME AS COMMITTING AN ACT OF VIOLENCE. IF YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THAT, THEN I THINK YOU WILL ALSO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF JUST HOW AMAZING KEIICHI'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THIS STORY ARE.

I HOPE ALL OF YOU WHO ARE TRYING TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT WILL STOP DOING THINGS ON YOUR OWN, ASSUMING THAT NO ONE WILL UNDERSTAND, AND GO TO OTHERS FOR HELP AND SUPPORT. I HOPE WITH ALL MY HEART THAT THIS STORY WILL COME ACROSS THE WAY I MEANT IT TO.

Thank you so much for joining us for volume four of the "Massacre Arc." I'm so relieved that the climax of the first half, Satoko's rescue, ended without incident. I'm so glad that they broke down Rule Z and changed the village, and that Satoko was able to grow and mature!!
And, and! As for me personally, it was really fun being able to draw the older characters— Oryou-san, Teppei, the Sonozaki assemblyman, etc.

Now it's finally been revealed that Takano-san is the true culprit behind Oyashiro-sama's Curse, and thus we begin the second half's battle. How will Rika and her friends fight against Rule Y? I'm going to keep working my very hardest, so please keep reading.

Momoyama

Special K2 Thanks!!

Original Story, Supervisor: Ryukishi-sama, BT-sama, Jika-sama, and Tsubaki Naruse-sama
Editors: Nakagawa-sama, Koizumi-sama
My Assistants: Ekuni-kun, Hime-sama, Cyco-sama, Mito-sama, Aoi Shouno-sama, Motchii-sama, Yuukarin & my family, & everyone who read this!!

Some familiar faces were mixed in with the petitioners after they got the village council's cooperation. If you have time, please look for them. ☺

BONUS MANGA

It's another fairy tale, but

...WITH HER STEP-MOTHER, THE QUEEN.

MOTHER!?

Miyo-san

THERE WAS ONCE A CASTLE, WHERE SNOW WHITE LIVED...

Satoko

MIRROR, MIRROR, ON THE WALL, WHO IS THE FAIREST ONE OF ALL?

KUSU (CHUCKLE) KUSU

I'M THE FAIREST ONE OF ALL, RIGHT?

THE STEP-MOTHER OWNED A MAGIC MIRROR.

THE LOVELY SNOW WHITE.

SEE HOW ADOR-ABLE SHE IS?

Irry

TRAPS!

THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE NOT AN OLD BAT, BUT A YOUNG GIRL WITH LOTS OF FUTURE POTENTIAL.

AYE-AYE, SIR

HUNTS-MAN! GO KILL SNOW WHITE!

KII (GRR)

WHO ARE YOU CALLING AN OLD BAT!? NOW I'M MAD!

PARIIIN (SHATTER)

Huntsman Type

SNOW WHITE'S AGONY

KOSO (SNEAK)

MR. HUNTSMAN, WHERE ARE WE GOING?

UH. UM

BIKU (WINCE)

BIKU

TEKU

TEKU (TRUDGE)

UGH, IT'S SUCH A PAIN TO KILL PEOPLE. ISN'T THERE SOME EASIER WAY TO DEAL WITH HER?

UNDER THE ORDERS OF THE QUEEN, THE HUNTSMAN TOOK SNOW WHITE OUT INTO THE FOREST ...

AH?

WHERE ARE WE GOING? UH... .....

PHIN (PING)

I THINK I WANT TO TAKE HER HOME WITH ME. I THINK.

OHH!

WHAT IS SUCH AN ADORABLE LITTLE GIRL DOING OUT HERE IN THE WOODS? WHAT?

Dwarf: Rena

WE'RE GOING TO MY HOUSE.

...AND KIDNAPPED HER.

HE... HE BEAT ME TO IT...!!!

WHAT!?!

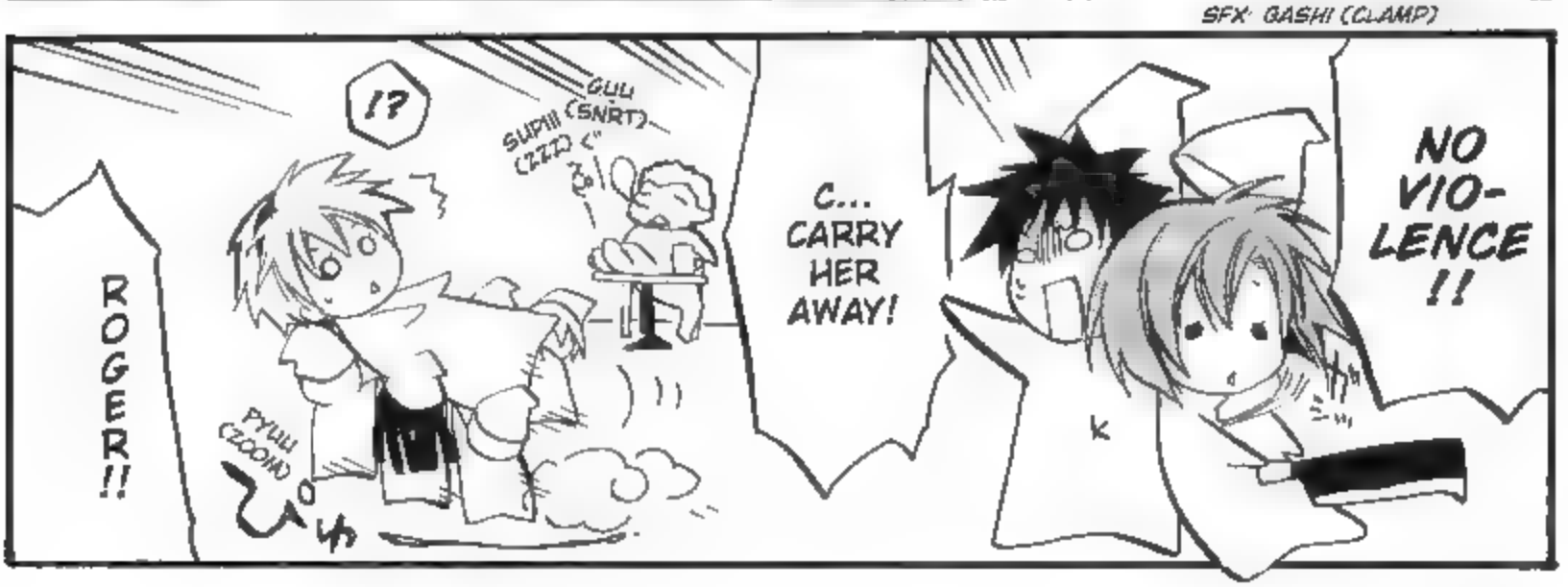
DO DO DO DO DO (DRMO)

INSTEAD OF KILLING YOU, I'LL MAKE YOU MY SLAVE!

THE SEVEN DWARFS

THAT'S AWFUL! HE'S DRESSED HER IN RAGS AND IS MAKING HER DO ALL HIS WORK!
KOGO (SNEAK)
GAAA (SNORE)
THE HUNTS-MAN'S HOUSE
GOSHI (SCRUB)
GOSHI

SFX: GASHI (CLAMP)



CHANGING CLOTHES

MEAN-WHILE, AT THE CASTLE ...

...AND SNOW WHITE WAS SAVED BY THE SEVEN DWARFS.

THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING.

HERE. WE HAVE NEW CLOTHES FOR YOU, SIR.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE TO GO, YOU CAN STAY HERE AS LONG AS YOU NEED TO.

SFX: KUSU (CHUCKLE) KUSU

MIRROR, MIRROR, ON THE WALL, WHO IS THE FAIREST ONE OF ALL?

SNOW WHITE'S GONE NOW, SO I'M THE FAIREST, RIGHT?

AND WHO ARE YOU CALLING OLD!?

PARIIIN (SHATTER)

I DIDN'T CALL ANY-ONE OLD!

Smashed to bits

AS I SAID BEFORE, THE YOUNG, FIRM-SKINNED SNOW WHITE—

...SIR.

IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU...

From Umineko

BIG BROTHER'S STRENGTH

WAAAH! SNOW WHITE!!

KUSU (CHUCKLE)

KUSU KUSU

OH, WHAT A RELIEF.

THE ANGRY QUEEN TRANSFORMED HERSELF INTO AN APPLE PEDDLER AND MADE SNOW WHITE EAT A POISONED APPLE.

SFX: GASA (RUSTLE)

LET ME SEE HER.

SU (SSK)

Attendant: Satoshi

!?

BUT EVEN FROM HERE, SHE LOOKS TO BE ALIVE.

SNOW WHITE IS DEAD!

YOU THERE, DWARFS. WHAT IS THE MATTER?

Prince Shion

...YOU'RE ADORABLE WHEN YOU'RE SLEEPING, BUT I THINK I'D LIKE YOU TO WAKE UP.

SATOKO...

THAT'S MY SATOSHI-KUN...!

JUST ONE SENTENCE...

MORNING.

GOOD MORNING!!

PU (PTOO)

Piece of apple.

Revives on her own.

FINALE???

YES!

SNOW WHITE, WILL YOU JOIN MY FAMILY?

!!!?

YES, YOUR HIGH-NESS!

IT'S MY FAVOR-ITE!

ATTEN-DANT, PREPARE A PUMPKIN FEAST!

ALLLLL RIGHT! WHEN WE GET BACK TO THE CASTLE, WE'LL CELE-BRATE!

...AND SO SNOW WHITE WAS ADOPTED BY THE NEIGH-BORING KINGDOM.

KAPPO KAPPO

KAPPO (CLIP-CLOP)

NOOOOOO!

BE HAPPY!

AND THE QUEEN WAS WELL PLEASED BY HER NEW MAGIC MIRROR.

Da-daaa~

YOU, OF COURSE!

OH, I'M FLAT-TERED!

MIRROR, MIRROR, ON THE WALL, WHO IS THE FAIREST OF THEM ALL?

HIGURASHI
WHEN THEY CRY
MASSACRE ARC ②

RYUKISHI07
Hinase Momoyama

Translation: Alethea Nibley and Athena Nibley

Lettering: AndWorld Design

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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